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French-German solidarity must recognise differences

DIE WELT

The ill feeling between Bonn and Paris over an ambiguous statement by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on the military geographical location of the Federal Republic of Germany in Europe will be no more than temporary.

The two sides can be sure to agree to a joint viewpoint on the situation of Germany in Europe and its consequences for joint security policy and defence.

But the upset that arose over M. Dumas' statement in Vienna shows that interests are not identical on both sides of the Rhine and that certain differences preordained by geography and by pact structure will continue to exist.

Franco-German solidarity must be based on mutual recognition of these differences, not on surface polish.

That is why the German Federal government must clearly heed the differences that have arisen over the French Foreign Minister's opinion that the Federal Republic must be a "case for special treatment" in European disarmament.

The German Chancellor must make it clear to the French President that such differentiations not only weaken the West's negotiating position vis-à-vis the Warsaw Pact on security and arms control in Europe.

They also harm the special relationship between France and the Federal Republic and are irreconcilable with M. Mitterrand's personal views on the "alliance within an alliance" between France and Germany.

For the French Foreign Minister to make such a comment, open to misunderstanding at the very least, at the inauguration of talks on military security in Europe shows that convergence of ideas in political and strategic thinking between Paris and Bonn has not yet made sufficient headway, let alone reached the point at which it can be taken for granted.

Yet this is not just a Franco-German problem. Britain and the United States have also advocated the re-establishment of an arms control region in Cen-

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Mubarak taps views on Middle East

President Mubarak of Egypt's tour of Europe has taken him to Belgium, Holland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

He is keen to discuss with his hosts the latest developments in the Middle East, such as Mr Shevardnadze's views on an international conference or the cautious change in US attitudes toward the PLO.

He was particularly hopeful of greater diplomatic support from Bonn. Egypt, which would have an important part to play at a Middle East conference, is keen to stress to the superpowers the importance of the European Community.

Cairo is rated moderate and pro-Western in the Arab world. Yet rumours have it that Egypt too, possibly with the backing of Swiss companies, has tried to make chemical weapons at a worksnear Cairo.

If there is any truth in these rumours it could mean a serious setback for Egypt's prestige. The Egyptians have hitherto been reliable allies of the West in its clash with Colonel Gaddafi of Libya.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 March 1989)

IN THIS ISSUE

Back again after 12 years. Volker Hauff salutes the SPD's success in the Frankfurt city election after 12 years of CDU rule. (Photo: Sven Simon)

SPD wins in Frankfurt; right extremists poll 6.6 per cent

The new mayor of Frankfurt will be Social Democrat Volker Hauff, 48. The CDU lost its absolute majority in Germany's financial capital after 12 years when voters chose local governments in the *Land* of Hesse. The SPD is now the biggest single party in Frankfurt with 40.1 per cent (1985: 38.6 per cent). The CDU polled 36.6 per cent (49.6); the Greens 10.1 (8.0); and the right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) 6.6 per cent (did not contest in 1985). The Free Democrats got 4.9 per cent up 2.4 per cent but not enough for representation. In the *Land* as a whole, the CDU dropped about 7 per cent on 1985, to 34.3 per cent; the SPD got 44.8 per cent, up 1.1 per cent; the FDP dropped from 5.3 to 4.9 per cent. The Greens gained (9.1, up from 7.1). The extreme right-wing NPD and Republicans together polled about 2 per cent. (Figures subject to alteration).

Twelve years ago Christian Democrat Walter Wallmann wrested power from the Social Democrats in Frankfurt. That, as everyone later realised, marked the first step toward the CDU/CSU regaining power in Bonn.

Power has now changed hands again in Frankfurt, which seems likely to be governed by a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens. Does this too presage power changing hands in Bonn next year, a general election year? It will mainly be for the Christian Democrats to answer this question. In Frankfurt, as in Berlin, the Social Democrats regained power without really having won at the polls.

The crucial factors in both cities were the drastic decline in support for the CDU and the alarming gains by extreme right-wing splinter parties.

How is this fraying at the edges to be brought to a halt? Disputes in the quest for the right approach are sure to grow even more heated and vociferous. And they will probably take their toll.

Many people attribute to poor leadership by CDU Chancellor Helmut Kohl and CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler the fact that only one German city, Stuttgart, is still CDU-ruled. Manfred Rommel, mayor of Stuttgart, is a liberal Christian Democrat.

The first point to make in the aftermath of the Berlin and Hesse polls is that the middle of the road has grown narrower. SPD and CDU now each attract no more than about 40 per cent of voters.

The Free Democrats are teetering above or below the five per cent they need to poll to get into the Bundestag or state assemblies — unlike the Greens, who are now comfortably over five per cent.

On the far right of the political spectrum parties with emotional, nationalist slogans are gaining headway. Gone, or so it would seem, are the days of party-political stability.

Wolfgang Kryszohn

(Kieler Nachrichten, 13 March 1989)



Egypt's President Mubarak (left) is greeted on arrival in Bonn by President von Weizsäcker. (Photo: AP)

■ INTERNATIONAL

Vienna arms talks: a chance for theory and feasibility to meet each other

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The good news from Vienna is that for the first time since the outbreak of the Cold War 40 years ago tank and field artillery disarmament seems both desirable in theory and feasible in practice.

The bad news is that the negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe (NCDE) will be extremely complicated and take ages.

How complicated they are is shown by the course of the talks on mutual balanced force reduction (MBFR) in Central Europe, recently laid to rest in the Austrian capital.

Representatives of Nato and the Warsaw Pact spent 15 years negotiating in Vienna without scrapping a single tank or demobilising a single soldier.

For 15 years, one can but assume, the two pacts favoured the status quo more than they favoured change.

Until 1985 they were the years of the Brezhnev ice age, years in which the Soviet Union, as Soviet commentators now admit, "dogmatically" and "subjectivistically" asserted its claim to superpower status by means of an arms buildup.

If the new set of initials stands a better chance than the old, then mainly because of the change in major strategy by the post-Brezhnev Soviet Union.

Staying put and arming to the teeth no longer hold the key to Soviet strategy, having yielded to the slogan of an "economic foreign policy."

Detente is no longer to stand substitute; it is to be the prerequisite for domestic reform.

"Inspector-General" Gorbachov has made cuts in all sectors to strike a tolerable balance between cost and benefit: from Afghanistan to Angola and from nuclear to conventional armament.

He does so not for the West's sake but in the best interest of the Soviet Union as he sees it, which is surely the best of all possible worlds from the viewpoint of negotiations.

Factors that put the MBFR talks to lasting sleep, such as the inability even to agree on existing troop strengths, have melted away in the course of the thaw decreed by Mr Gorbachov.

The Warsaw Pact now officially admits to having not just more but very much more than Nato when it comes to the classic land-based offensive weapons: tanks, armoured personnel carriers and field artillery.

Even more importantly, the Soviet Union has accepted the fundamental Western principle of an "asymmetrical reduction," which in plain words means that those who have more weapons must disarm more.

Third, the Soviet Union aims to establish equal ceilings on both sides, and they are to be between 10 and 15 per cent below what Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze refers to as the lowest (existing) level in a given category in East or West.

To take a practical example, this is what that would entail. According to the East bloc Nato has roughly 30,000 tanks and the Warsaw Pact about 60,000. (Nato figures are 16,000 and 51,000 respectively, by the way.)

On the basis of the Soviet figures a 15-per-cent reduction in the lower, Nato figure, would amount to an equal ceiling of 25,500. In other words, the Warsaw Pact would have to scrap nearly 25,000 tanks to Nato's 4,500.

This equation on the basis of Mr Shevardnadze's target proves two points.

One is that the Soviet Union claims to be prepared to disarm almost to the level envisaged by Nato, which would prefer to see agreement on an equal ceiling of 20,000 tanks each.

The other is that voluntary disarmament to such a radical degree is something the world has yet to see, which is why one must realistically assume that a number of years will elapse between the statement of intent and its implementation.

How complicated the process really is grows more apparent with each step forward into the fiendish mass of details.

The Warsaw Pact claims, for instance, that the West has more combat aircraft and naval units than it does.

Conversely, it has many more fighter aircraft than Nato, according to its own figures.

Views may well differ on what is a fighter and what is a bomber. They can, however, hardly differ on Western Europe's need for reliable protection of its transatlantic supply and reinforcement routes to offset the natural geographic superiority enjoyed by the Soviet Union. So there will definitely need to be plain speaking about the naval joker Moscow has suddenly drawn from the puck (even though it does not form part of the Vienna mandate).

As for when, where and how nuclear weapons are to be included in the disarmament equation, not even Nato has arrived at a consensus on this point.

One of many more bones of contention is how this gigantic disarmament process is to be reliably monitored.

It is much easier to monitor the scrapping of an entire arms category, such as medium-range missiles, than a tank which stays put in one place while another, somewhere else, is consigned to the shredder.

Droves of inspectors will need to scour member-countries of both pacts, and that too would be unprecedented in the sorry tale of disarmament.

Even so, NCDE is a much more promising set of initials than MBFR proved to be, given that agreement was not even reached on figures, let alone on the key principle that the side which has more weapons in a given category must scrap more of them.

Moscow today has at least accepted these basic Western objectives and demonstrated, with its stated intention of going ahead first with disarmament, that progress, not inertia, is its aim.

So the outlook for Vienna is fine even though the negotiations are sure to be arduous and protracted.

Josef Joffe

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 8 March 1989)

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tral Europe based on both parts of Germany as the main stationing area for both Nato and Warsaw Pact forces.

They too have thus drawn a security policy distinction between the Federal Republic of Germany and the rest of Western Europe.

Yet this state of affairs need not be repeated. The negotiators have an opportunity of closing ranks and limiting the damage done.

Goings-on in Nato in connection with Western disarmament proposals make one wonder whether the Western powers in Nato might not be advocating their own interests in and toward Central Europe.

Might they perhaps fear developments in this geopolitical area and aim at establishing a firm position by way of reinsuring their freedom of manoeuvre in the event of a crisis?

The mere fact that America has urged a closely defined regional approach within the continental framework would seem to indicate a US strategic interest in retaining the option of keeping positions in Atlantic, i.e. non-German, Western Europe free from Central European arms control considerations in view of the difficulty in predicting what course the Vienna disarmament talks might take.

Talks might arguably be limited to Central Europe in order to arrive at an initial agreement should attempts to negotiate terms for Europe as a whole fail.

This interest, which amounts to an interest in maintaining the global strategic mobility and flexibility of the United States as a world power, was plainly apparent when the US chiefs of staff made it clear in Washington that they preferred not to see Britain, France and Italy within a closer joint arms control framework with the Federal Republic of Germany.

For France, which like Britain has troops stationed in Germany that would be covered by any such agreement, a distinction that would ensure it (and Britain) a treatment other than that envisaged for neighbouring Germany, might be seen as a last security barrier against the effects of arms control.

In Paris, as in London, arms control is more readily acceptable for Germany and the Benelux countries than for French (or British) territory.

As on previous occasions in East-West affairs, Germany is seen to be a special case and, in respect of Nato and Warsaw Pact troops stationed on German soil, a special case where the implementation of arms control is concerned too.

Between East and West, German policy has but thin ice on which to skate.

That is why the Bonn government's diplomats, in all the figures they skate in Europe, must constantly be aware that the ice there is not as thick as it is further west.

The more German policy is aimed at Central Europe and the more it seeks rapprochement with Eastern Europe, the greater are the risks it must bear in mind.

They can only be covered in the West, and cover is only available at a price.

Given Germany's special situation, it is in the German interest to consolidate Bonn's political and military membership of the West rather than to aim at all-European structures based on doubtful foundations.

Lothar Rühl

(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 March 1989)

A difficult role for Bonn to play in Namibia

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The Federal Republic of Germany has an important part to play in Namibia's transition to independence.

So it is right to talk in good time with the leading political forces in the former German colony illegally administered by South Africa for decades after Pretoria's UN trusteeship mandate was withdrawn.

It goes without saying that the most powerful political grouping among black Namibians is Swapo, which has waged a long guerrilla war against South African rule. So it is only logical to first seek to talk with it.

Yet that has not always been an undisputed viewpoint within the present Bonn government. Talks with Swapo were anathema to the CSU in particular; its leader, the late Franz Josef Strauss, maintained close ties with South Africa.

Free Democratic Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher never shared such fears of contact with the guerrilla leaders. That is sure to have made it easier for him to forge his present contacts.

But the very fact that CSU Development Aid Minister Hans Klein has conferred with Swapo leader Sam Nujoma shows that the Bonn government is pursuing a clear policy line.

That is important on several counts. Swapo must, for one, be committed to the democratic process — and to ensuring that Mr Nujoma's pledges are honoured.

Fulfilment of Bonn's development aid commitments, which will be substantially conditional on an emerging independent Namibia abiding by the UN charter on human rights.

Mr Nujoma voiced fears in Bonn that South Africa might foment a climate of chaos in the final stages of its rule in Namibia.

It is hard to say at the time of writing whether these fears are warranted. At present it looks more like Pretoria is keen, interested as it is in ensuring that the Cubans withdraw from Angola as agreed, to forgo a policy of destabilisation in neighbouring states.

The greatest danger Namibia might face would be for unrest, fomented by whomsoever, to trigger a white exodus such as had destructive consequences for economic development in Angola and Mozambique when they gained independence.

Bonn's difficult tight-rope act must consist of retaining the confidence of both the blacks and, above all, the ethnic German white Namibians.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 4 March 1989)

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Star of the show Ströbele (left); old hands Fischer and Schily (centre); and, looking back in anger, Ditfurth (right).
(Photos: Werek, Sven Simon, Spiegl)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Flowers on the floor: Greens' defeated fundi wings shows its bitterness

A small and slightly embarrassed group of men and women stood on the rostrum of the Rhein-Ruhr-Halle in Duisburg, each holding a large and colourful bunch of flowers.

The conference chairman had asked members of the old national executive, voted out last December, and the acting national executive that took their place for a brief three months to come to the fore.

After the formal acceptance of their reports to successive conferences they were now, in a conciliatory gesture, to be given an official send-off.

But this good intention led to an unpleasant discord. Regina Michalik, spokesperson (alongside Jutta Ditfurth and Christian Schmidt) for the Greens until voted out in Karlsruhe early last December, made use of this last opportunity to give the 300-odd national conference delegates a piece of her left-wing mind.

She hadn't deserved the flowers, she said. They were the due of those who had saved the party. And to emphasise the note of bitterness in her words she threw her flowers on the floor — an expression of helpless defiance by someone who felt gravely insulted.

Jutta Ditfurth too was all gall and wormwood in her final report to the conference, missing not a single opportunity of settling accounts with the party as a whole.

In harsh staccato sentences the Frankfurt radical ecologist showered all her pent-up anger on the Duisburg delegates, leaving out nothing and no-one who had opposed her in the previous four years.

The Greens, she said, had severed part of their roots and were on the road to conformity.

Political responsibility was no longer seen as offering greater resistance or forging social pacts for structural change. Instead, it consisted of sharing power with the Social Democrats and supporting the capitalist policies they pursued.

"The Greens," she said, "are increasingly becoming the appendage of a societal development toward which they no longer offer joint resistance or an analysis or profile of their own."

She went on to complain that: "Among the Greens too ecology is degenerating into an environmental technology, with everyone hastily claiming to be able to carry out the best repair job."

The longer her speech lasted and the more she stepped up her words of warning, the more restless delegates grew.

Many were sick and tired of criticism they felt was both arrogant and cynical. She was catcalled and told in no uncertain terms to call it a day.

Frau Ditfurth thus demonstrated yet again her skill at polarisation, a talent that used to delight, but has lately irritated, national conferences — and her inability to integrate.

She also testified to the extent to which the process of alienation between her and her party had progressed.

At the end of her speech she said that she would not quit the party yet but definitely would do so the moment the Greens joined forces with the SPD in a Bonn coalition.

It no longer sounded like more than a footnote to a chapter that was already over.

The Greens had taken a fresh direction and now needed new heroes. Oddly enough, the hero who materialised in Duisburg came from a political quarter that used to be associated with Frau Ditfurth and her fundamentalist wing of the party.

The star of the show was Hans-Christian Ströbele, the key figure in the Berlin coalition talks between the Social Democrats and the Alternative List.

Herr Ströbele, a lawyer by profession, reviewed the state of negotiations with the Social Democrats in what can only be described as having been a dialectal masterpiece.

He began by sounding anything but a note of confidence that all was well in the best of all possible worlds for the Greens.

He referred instead to the difficulties that constantly arose in talks with the Social Democrats, including depressing setbacks.

The situation was, he said, very serious. There had been renewed disputes within the Alternative List as to whether an alternative other than a coalition with the SPD was feasible.

Members of the party had wondered in Berlin whether the Social Democrats ought not to be told that there were limits to the concessions the Alternative List was prepared to make. Then, this argument continued, we can retire to the Opposition benches.

This was naturally grist to the mill of those who were opposed to, or sceptical about, a coalition with the SPD.

Herr Ströbele, grey-haired, in his late-40s, wearing a yellow sweater and a reddish shirt, then referred to the "opportunity of a century" the Greens now had in Berlin.

It was clear, he added, that revolutionary change was out of the question in the divided city, but the Greens could not simply return to business as usual after their showing at the Berlin polls.

They could not simply announce that they were retiring from the fray, he said.

He completely convinced a majority of delegates by painting the picture of a similar general election outcome in a year's time.

He played his front-rank role modestly, sceptically even, as a politician who has shouldered the responsibility bestowed on him by voters.

What was he to say, he asked, in a skilful display of rhetoric, to voters who had placed hopes and expectations in the Alternative List?

What was he to tell foreign residents, women, the unemployed, social security claimants and people looking for a home of their own?

Was he to tell them he preferred not to attempt to pursue left-wing, ecological, democratic policies — not even a first step in the right direction?

He then appealed to delegates not to intervene from the outside in the Berlin coalition talks.

That was not just a criticism of Green Bonn MP Otto Schily but a bid for the Duisburg conference's endorsement so that the Alternative List could embark on the next round of the talks with the SPD backed by fellow-Greens.

Who could possibly refuse solidarity with a man who was so clearly intent on scrupulously maintaining the identity of the Greens as an ecological party?

The lengthy applause he was given after a speech lasting half an hour verged on an ovation and made it clear that the Greens had progressed beyond their phase of rejectionism and total opposition.

Most delegates in Duisburg were thinking in terms of possible coalitions with the Social Democrats. They went on to show that a majority of delegates have also learnt to adopt a tactical approach.

Three bids to hold a debate on the possibility of an SPD-Green coalition in Berlin came to grief on points of order.

In other words, a majority of delegates voted against themselves, as it were. The day before they had expressly included a debate on the Berlin coalition talks in the agenda after an hour's discussion.

Herr Ströbele made it easy to scrap this debate by referring to the autonomy of the Greens in their respective *Länder*, but appeals of this kind would have fallen on deaf ears in days gone by.

Keenly interested in coalition pros and cons the Duisburg delegates may have been, but they decided to agree to disagree.

A majority of delegates prefer to forgo a debate that might have jeopardised and spoilt the "opportunity of a century."

That was a new departure for the Greens, who are plainly no longer simply opposed to whatever happens to be on the agenda.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 6 March 1989)

Vogel warns SPD against an over-reaction to success

Opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel must be cheered to see the CDU and CSU deeper in trouble than for ages — and unsure what to do about it.

The FDP is worried stiff about being plunged into oblivion, as in Berlin. But the SPD is cock-a-hoop after its unexpected win in Berlin. It can now pick and choose coalition partners.

In Hamburg it governs with the FDP, in Berlin with the Alternative List. In Bonn it has joined forces with the CDU/CSU on pension reform.

All that now matters is to retain these options and be in an equally pleasant quandary after the general election at the end of next year.

That may be difficult. If the Berlin coalition breaks up the SPD will be badly hit. It can't afford to form too many coalitions with the Greens; that would make people think this is the party's ideal.

Herr Vogel is right to warn against euphoria. Success now is largely because of mistakes by the CDU/CSU and the FDP. The SPD, as Herr Vogel's press conference showed, does not have that much to offer.

Heinz-Peter Finke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 March 1989)

■ THE ARMED FORCES

The man who keeps in contact with the troops

Ten years after the war politicians in Bonn had to make a most difficult decision. They had to set up a new army to a new pattern, in a different political and social context, to defend our young democracy. In the future the primacy of politics was to go unchallenged.

Apart from new legislation this made necessary the setting up of new control mechanisms for the armed forces.

Thirty years ago, the Bundestag created the office of Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces or Defence Commissioner, the only appointment of its kind in the world.

Helmut von Grolmann, a former lieutenant-general and an economist, was appointed by the Bundestag to be the first Commissioner. He had the most elementary conditions under which to build up his office.

In his first report as Defence Commissioner he described the difficulties he had in selecting and appointing staff.

Helmut von Grolmann was a former state secretary in the Lower Saxony Ministry for Expellees.

He was voted to be the first Commissioner on 19 February 1959 with 363 for, 16 against and 32 absentions. On 20 March he was sworn into his office, which mainly involved him being the long arm of the Bundestag in the affairs of the armed forces. He officially began his appointment on 3 April 1959.

The job was to make "meaningful contact with the troops possible without any red-tape." Six months later Grolmann presented his first report.

A single official handled 3,300 petitions, who had to accompany the Defence Commissioner on his visits to the troops. The all-round department was manned by just two officials.

The Commssioner's office is now in Bad Godesberg, directly overlooking the Rhine. The present incumbant of the office of Defence Commissioner, the sixth to do so, is Willi Weiskirch, 66.

He has a staff of 65 and last year 30 of his officials processed 8,531 petitions exactly.

Over the past 30 years the responsibilities of the Commissioner's office, as laid down in Article 45 b of Basic Law, have not changed. Like his predecessors Weiskirch is appointed "to safeguard the basic rights and to assist the Bundestag in exercising parliamentary control."

His authority is established in legislation covering the Defence Commissioner.

According to Paragraph 2, Section 1 of this legislation the Defence Commissioner, on instructions from the Bundestag or the Bundstag's Defence Committee, has to look into specific occurances with appropriate discretion.

Soldiers in the Federal Republic are conscripts so a certain amount of compulsion is involved in their military service. One of the Defence Commissioner's important responsibilities is to safeguard their basic rights.

These include human dignity, the right to the free development of the personality, to life, physical integrity and freedom. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces is also concerned with the protection of marriage and the family, the privacy of the posts and the right to petition.

On the other hand some basic rights are restricted, for example the right to freedom of movement and freedom of assembly. In the early years of the Defence Commissioner appointment there was considerable discussion inside and outside the armed forces of "Internal Leadership." The citizen in uniform should perform his duties according to new modes of leadership.

Military leaders were expected to respect the freedoms soldiers have and restrict to the essentials strains on the individual, in the service of the state, and the public at large, in contrast to the unconditional obedience of the Hitler era.

The aim of the military command is to create a disciplined body of troops, internally stable, who side with democracy.

There have been, and are still however, frictions.

Apart from the armed forces complaints arrangements every soldier can turn to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces without prior reference to his commanding officer, if he feels that he is not getting his rights.

The Defence Commissioner's annual report, to which much attention is given, gives an insight into the kind of matters which are brought to his attention.

The first Defence Commissioner handled about 6,000 petitions per year. In the 1970s the number increased to about 7,000 a year. Since 1985 the figure has been more than 8,000.

Last year 2,391 cases concerned conscripts. There were 2,165 cases concerning problems of internal leadership and training, 2,103 petitions concerning welfare, and 1,708 involving personal matters.

In all, over the 30 years, about 190,000 soldiers have made complaints to the Defence Commissioner.

The number of petitions shows clearly why the Defence Commissioner is known among the troops as "the soldiers' problem postbox," on whose protection complainants can rely.

The latest report from the Defence Commissioner was recently laid before Parliament. Willi Weiskirch stated that



last year there was a curt tone in the armed forces. This had improved in comparison with previous years but there was still much to be done in the dealings between superiors and men.

The Defence Commissioner's complaints have led to concrete decisions concerning the armed forces. In future officers and NCOs will be briefed on how to deal with their subordinates in special seminars.

The new report includes yet again a whole series of sensational offences.

In an airborne unit in Passau, for example, the public prosecutor was called in after the Defence Commissioner's intervention.

Superiors in the company had organised a so-called "fancy-dress ball" in which young soldiers were forced to wear various uniforms, and appear at the double, although there was no convincing reason why they should have done this.

In the same unit soldiers with bandaged, broken arms had to take part in training marches.

During the investigation it was also revealed that recruits were given a real bawling out at the barrack gateway on the day they were called-up. While still wearing civilian clothes they wear yelled at to stand to attention and hounded through the barracks at the double.

The judge handed down ten sentences for this breach of duty. Senior military officers imposed an impressive number of disciplinary measures. In Weiskirch's view harassment of this kind is not suitable for motivating the men.

Weiskirch goes on his visits to the troops in his old Mercedes 230. He was a lance-corporal in the war and was wounded. When he is in the barracks he talks to the ordinary soldiers about their food, pay and other quite ordinary matters.

Commanders usually get an uncomfortable feeling when he makes an appearance. Their first fears are that when the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces turns up then something awful must have happened.

But that is often not the case. Weiskirch sees himself as the mediator between the Defence Ministry, the troops on the spot and Parliament.

He takes the services, which are coming up for more and more criticism in public, under his protection.

Willi Weiskirch said: "It is not the soldier's responsibility to justify himself to the world at large, but the duty of the politicians who have given him his orders."

Weiskirch is an invalid and so does not yet have a car telephone. Often he can be seen standing in a telephone box at a motorway service station, altering his appointments because he has been talking too long with soldiers in their canteen.

Weiskirch hears from all servicemen, irrespective of rank, that training together with the Bundeswehr's vocational training scheme, is too bound by red-tape and the financial support is not used to the best advantage.

Weiskirch is not beyond ringing up the head of a company when it involves helping a soldier, who has applied for a job in the company and has not got it because he still has eight weeks to serve in the army.

"There must be more flexibility and readiness to cooperate between industry, the administration and the armed forces," Will Weiskirch said.

"If the company was prepared to wait four weeks and the army was prepared to let the soldier go four weeks early, everyone concerned would be helped," he said.

The Defence Commissioner points out that the Bundeswehr itself cannot bring to people's attention the meaning and purpose of the armed forces. Parents, schools and associations must do more than they have done in the past to prepare young men for their military service.

In many schoolbooks used in school-leaver classes the armed forces are not mentioned at all. By objective explanation military service could become more attractive to the public at large and prejudices done away with.

Then more training in civics must be given to servicemen to fill the gaps that exist in their understanding of civilian life.

Weiskirch himself presented a possible recipe for improving the sitution in a brochure he wrote some years ago.

He said: "The barracks, once a term implying arbitrariness and compulsion, must become a term associated with freedom and human dignity. We must all contribute to bringing about this transformation. And when we are ready to defend our freedom with arms, if necessary, the idea of brutal military service will disappear for ever."

Jochen Wagner

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 3 March 1989)



The soldiers' friend ... Commissioner Weiskirch. (Photo: Spiegel)

Unrest in the ranks, says commissioner

Willi Weiskirch, the Bundestag's Defence Commissioner, believes that politicians must do more to protect soldiers in the Bundeswehr, the armed forces.

When presenting his annual report in Bonn he said that with the dwindling acceptance of the Bundeswehr and its defence responsibilities, there was widespread unrest among regular soldiers and conscripts.

Many felt that the politicians had let them down. There were complaints among soldiers that their friends increasingly turned their backs on them, regarding servicemen as "disturbers of the peace."

Weiskirch said that even in criticism of defence policies the soldier's honour should not be brought into consideration.

After the accidents at Ramstein and Remscheid the discussion on how best to preserve a lasting peace had gone along lines which made servicemen uneasy.

Once more Weiskirch took up a number of infringements of human dignity among ordinary soldiers in his annual report. He pointed out, however, that these cases should not be taken as a general state of affairs in the armed forces.

He said that the atmosphere in the Bundeswehr was determined by less spectacular cases.

This involved more a large number of cases of weak leadership; shortcomings and thoughtlessness in routine military life, which constantly coloured the internal make-up of the armed forces and made many soldiers look upon the time they spent in the services with distaste.

Wieskirch demanded that "political training in the armed forces should be taken seriously. More and more frequently training of this sort was cut because it could not be fitted into the training roster. This should not be allowed.

If parents, schools and youth associations refrained from explaining to young soldiers the significance of their military service then the armed forces themselves must take on the job."

Defence Commissioner Weiskirch was critical of that there were still cases in 1988 of superiors trying to prevent complainants getting in touch with the Defence Commissioner. Last year 8,441 petitions were received by his office.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 March 1989)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Towards a multicultural society: a politician talks about the way ahead

The election in West Berlin last month in which the extreme right-wing Republicans won over 7.5 per cent of the vote on an anti-foreigners platform shows that there are problems developing between Germans and foreigners living in Germany. Stuttgart's mayor, Manfred Rommel, calls for more liberal attitudes in this article for the Hamburg weekly, *Die Zeit*.

As mayor of a city in which over 18 per cent of the population are foreigners I have to consider how relations in general and relations between Germans and foreigners in particular should develop in this city in future.

In my opinion, it is not a favourable long-term perspective for a big city if a substantial share of its permanent inhabitants are inhabitants with an inferior legal status.

Conditions as in ancient Sparta are certainly misplaced in the world of today.

It is already clear that there will be an even higher percentage share of foreigners in the populations of the major urban conurbations in future. This fact cannot be ignored.

Between 25 and 30 per cent of the the inhabitants below the age of 18 are foreigners and two thirds of foreign children and adolescents were born in Germany.

Furthermore, a decline in the German population in the cities is virtually pre-programmed due to the increase in the overall percentage of old people and the low birth rate.

The most pessimistic of three variants of a population forecast for the city of Stuttgart claims that the population figure will decrease from its current level of 560,000 to a figure of 280,000.

Such forecasts, however, are no more than extrapolations of probabilities.

However, one thing is certain: children not born in German families during recent years cannot suddenly appear in the statistics.

I share the optimistic hope that the European states will continue to grow closer together and that one day a European community of states will evolve.

Courageous steps along the road to Europe have already been taken, and a further major step is in sight: the realisation of the single European Community market by the end of 1992.

I do not regard myself as Utopian when contending that further progress towards Europe depends on two things: greater freedom of movement when choosing a job and a place of residence and the inclusion of countries which are currently not in the European Community but which would like to become members, such as Turkey, for example, and perhaps some day Yugoslavia.

I do not believe that we could and should keep Turkey out of Europe. This, I feel, would be a great mistake in the medium and long term.

The Turkish people are hard-working and dynamic, a people which have professed its "European connection" for many years. Why shouldn't Mohammedans also live in a united Europe?

I cannot imagine a situation in which major areas of economic activity in the Federal Republic of Germany decline and waste away because of an increased share of old people in the population as a whole or because of a lack of inhabitants.

I am convinced that there will be considerable migratory movements in Europe and that the population from the agglommerations which do not augment from this source will be supplemented by these migrations.

Unemployment, for which a patent remedy has yet to be found, and the growing displacement of simple labour operations by machines will probably lead to greater manpower mobility.

For some time now I have advocated an improvement and a reinforcement of the legal positions of those foreign fellow citizens who have been legally residing in the Federal Republic of Germany for many years.

I do not label these foreigners as guests, a term used by a man whom I otherwise respect most highly, the chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary party in the Bundestag, Alfred *Dregger, since guests only stay in different* places for a short while. This, however, does not apply to the majority of foreigners.

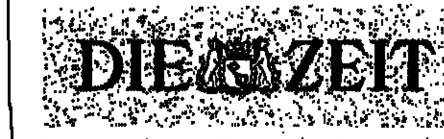
A growing number of foreigners have no intention of leaving the Federal Republic of Germany.

Many of them, who were born, educated and have grown up here, would be viewed as aliens in the country whose nationality they bear.

What is more, we should, in view of the shape Europe is taking, consider a toleration of dual nationality.

Wouldn't the possibility of acquiring German nationality in addition to a former nationality be a suitable and helpful solution for many foreigners?

Of course, these considerations are not just something I have simply made up off the top of my head: They are the



result of numerous contacts and discussions with foreigners living here in Stuttgart.

A lot of people have no idea how strongly many of them feel attached to this city and to this country.

One young man who spoke fluent German and Swabian (the local dialect in Stuttgart) said to me: "Do you know what I am, Herr Rommel? I'm a *Jugo* (common nickname for Yugoslavs)!"

One child asked whether it was a foreigner said in a broad Swabian dialect "*Noi, i bin doch a Türk* (No, I'm a Turk!)!"

The theory that the decisive factor for a sense of belonging to a country and a city is the origin of the blood which flows through a person's veins is, in my eyes, no longer convincing.

The main thing is where people live their lives and where their hearts are.

After publishing my views on this subject I received numerous, mainly anonymous, letters of abuse.

As I expected this anyway I responded with equanimity, since I feel that a man in my position must be able to face up to criticism.

Some of them described me as a fat swine, an accusation which has been refuted by the fact that I've lost eleven kilograms in weight during recent months.

Others expressed their doubts about whether I am in fact the son of my father, especially as I bear little resemblance to him.

There were even suggestions that there was a mix-up in the hospital and that my mother took the wrong child.

Such insults don't bother me at all. The disturbing aspect, however, is why a few citizens feel that national egotism is a patriotic duty.

One would have thought that patriotism is reflected in the willingness to help one's own nation rather than harming members of other nations.

In a world which is growing closer together, however, this is generally only possible by also helping members of other nations.

Citizenship

A Polish authoress recommends that we should deal with big problems while they are still small.

Admittedly, it is not always clear that small problems can turn into really big ones.

In the case of the foreigners living in the Federal Republic of Germany the situation is different. The problems in this *context are no longer small.*

I would limit the conferment of German nationality while retaining former nationality to European foreigners only.

I am aware of the fact that agreement was reached in the Council of Europe in 1963 to try and prevent dual nationalities. Yet haven't things developed since then?

Aren't the Württemberg, Prussian and Bavarian citizenships a thing of the past?

Wouldn't it make sense for German subjects to foster the culture of their country of origin?

That is what I regard as a multicultural society. Our cities would acquire greater cultural diversity and become more cosmopolitan, a situation which befits a country located in the heart of Europe and engaged in trade with the whole world.

Germany needs friends in a united Europe. We cannot win friends just by being hard-working. We are the only ones who doubt that this is true.

We can best win friends by trying to belong to the European nations.

The right of foreigners to vote in and stand for local government elections is highly problematic.

I regard the introduction of such a right as incompatible with the West German constitution.

Furthermore, I feel that this right is a political alibi. It doesn't help foreigners that much, since the decisions which concern them most are taken at a higher level, in the state assemblies or in the Bundestag.

What is more, political activity by foreigners in the Federal Republic of Germany could lead to considerable problems for these foreigners in their native countries without the Federal Republic of Germany being able to ade-

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■ COMPUTER SPYING

Phone bill error exposed link with KGB

One of the most serious cases of KGB espionage in Germany for years began in a Hanover apartment where a group of four hackers — computer freaks — tried to break and enter into US Army, Navy and Air Force computer systems using the usual equipment: a home computer, a telephone and a link between them.

Before long they had worked out the passwords that gained them access to the computer at USAF Ramstein, the nuclear armament and SDI research facilities at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore and the computers of major research facilities such as Cern in Geneva, Desy in Hamburg, the Max Planck Nuclear Physics Institute in Heidelberg and Nasa in the United States.

Other computer facilities raided were the Darmstadt unit of Esa, the European Space Agency, the Oberpfaffenhofen, Munich, centre of the German Aerospace Research Establishment (DFVLR) and a comparable US facility in Pasadena, California.

The Hanover hackers even gained access to Optimis, the Pentagon data bank.

The turntable of their illegal activity was, for a while, the computer of Loewe Opta, an entertainment electronics manufacturer in Kronach, Bavaria.

Loewe Opta spokesman Bernt von zur Mühlen says the hackers gained access to the company's computer early last summer with a view not to tapping or changing data but to using it as an "intermediate facility."

They used the Loewe Opta computer as a stepping stone to other data systems. The advantage was that any further moves appeared to be enquiries from Loewe Opta rather than the depredations of unknown hackers. Tracks were thus covered.

Mühlen says the company's computer security precautions have since been updated to virtually rule out any further activity of this kind.

The Hanover hackers started to root around in other people's computer systems out of sheer curiosity. They welcomed the challenge of outsmarting the computers' security staff and locating the weak spots in a system.

That was when the KGB arrived on the scene. German KGB informers evidently persuaded the computer freaks to collaborate with the Soviet espionage agency.

They are said to have made use of the narcotics dependence of at least one of the young hackers. The hackers did more than gain access to computer systems; they also "stole" secret military data.

The first information is said to have been sold to the Russians in September 1986. It consisted of the latest electronic access to the data network between Europe and the United States.

The hackers are said to have been paid several hundred thousand marks in all.

A Harvard professor, astronomer and computer expert, Clifford Stoll, gave the crucial tip that led to the hackers being caught.

He claimed back in 1986 that there were signs of illegal activity, but no-one took his warnings seriously.

In the computer of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California, a facility shared by several companies, he had noticed a seemingly unspectacular discrepancy of 75 cents in a telephone bill.

As he tried to find out the reason for this discrepancy he noticed that someone was trying to gain entry to the data bank via the telephone line.

He spent four months checking what the hacker entered into the system and discovered that he was looking for keywords such as ICBM, Norad and SDI.

Professor Stoll invented military data and lured the hackers into a sham computer network he dubbed SDI Net.

The hackers rose to the bait and spent two hours browsing through the bogus data — long enough to trace them back across the Atlantic to Hanover.

Three months later, he says, he received a letter requesting information about the SDI Net.

He sent the letter to the FBI, which discovered that the sender had links with Eastern Europe.

Laszlo Balogh from Pittsburgh, Pa., is suspected of a wide range of criminal activities, including the theft of computers he is said to have sold to the Soviet Union.

The security authorities in the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany sounded the alarm, but no connection between Balogh and the Hanover hackers came to light.

Investigations did not yield results until two of the hackers admitted to having supplied a KGB officer working as an attaché at the Soviet trade mission in East Berlin with computer data.

The KGB was easily supplied with information. The hackers travelled to West Berlin, took the S-Bahn to Friedrichstrasse station in East Berlin where they handed over the goods to their principals.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 4 March 1989)

'So much information that Russians couldn't cope'

There are over 1,000 hackers in the Federal Republic of Germany, computer freaks whose ambition is to outsmart safety precautions and gain access to public sector, research institute and industrial computers.

Most hackers do it as a hobby. Several of them, in Hanover and Berlin, "broke into" some of the most important computer systems in the West — and sold data to the KGB.

"That," says Gerhard Boeden, head of the *Verfassungsschutz*, Germany's Cologne-based counter-espionage agency, "is an entirely new dimension of espionage."

After months of preliminary investigations the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office, the *Bundeskriminalamt* and state CIDs in Hanover, Hamburg and Berlin struck, arresting four hackers.

Arrest warrants were first issued for two of them, an informatics student in Hanover and a Bundeswehr deserter in Berlin.

"Computer espionage leaves few if any traces," one security official says. "What can be proved at the end of the day is the issue at stake."

Proof being the problem, the public prosecutor's office prefers, for the time being, to refer to a "fairly important case."

Its spokesman, Alexander Prechtel, says that as far as can so far be judged the hackers merely succeeded in gaining access to "peripheral sectors" of large-scale computer systems.

Access is based on the onion-skin principle. A fairly large number of people have access to unclassified information. The more classified the material is, the more complex the access codes.

As far as is so far known, the hackers gained access to the computers of the US general staff, Nasa, Esa in Darmstadt, Cern in Geneva, Desy in Hamburg, the German Aerospace Research Establishment in Munich, the Max Planck Molecular Biology Research Centre in Heidelberg and several electronics companies, such as Thomson-Brandt, Philips, SEL, Loewe Opta.

The crucial question is how far they managed to penetrate the hierarchical arrangement of the various computer systems.

The data tapped in this way was transferred to handy floppy discs and handed over to a company in Leipziger Strasse, East Berlin, at regular meetings.

The East Berlin firm is suspected of being a cover for the KGB. The computer data handed over was so substantial that KGB agents were unable to cope with the sheer quantity. So the hackers were instructed to supply nothing but data on specific subjects as requested and that their principals were interested in the access codes.

"They were evidently keen to gain access to the computers themselves," a Western security official says.

The hackers are also said to have supplied construction plans for microchips and copies of computer-assisted design and manufacturing programmes. Programmes of this kind play a crucial part in controlling industrial robots. Experts have noted that the GDR has lately improved in this sector.

In keeping with other Western counter-espionage agencies the *Verfassungsschutz* had long been expecting East Bloc intelligence agencies to try and gain access to large-scale computers in the West.

As a Cologne official puts it: "All data is stored in computers. Once you're in the system, the choice is yours."

Many computer operators shrugged off warnings. Their codes, they confidently claimed, were unbreakable.

This self-assurance was dealt a fatal blow in autumn 1987 when the Chaos Computer Club (CCC) in Hamburg proved to the *Verfassungsschutz* that several of its members had hacked their way into the Nasa computer.

Last spring the *Bundeskriminalamt* took a closer look at several CCC hackers who were said to have "broken and entered" Philips and Thomson-Brandt computers.

The proceedings were shelved. Hacking alone is not an offence, and nothing could be proved.

Two Hamburg hackers first drew attention to the activities of their "colleagues" in Hanover. These hints were first dismissed as exaggeration. But that soon changed when reports arrived from the United States that hackers had been traced to Hanover.

Computer operators and officials spent months laying traps. Whenever a link was made between Hanover and the university computers in Bremen, Germany, and Berkeley, California, an automatic alarm sounded.

The computers then continued to supply data but the data was "marked" — and may now be used against the interlopers.

In spring 1985 two East Bloc agents approached the Hanover hackers and paid them their first five-figure sum, laced with a supply of narcotics.

Horst Zimmermann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 4 March 1989)

■ BUSINESS

Juicy returns from staking out a claim in steaks



Eugen Block is a self-made man, who has built up one of the leading steak-house chains in the Federal Republic over the past 20 years.

The Block organisation now has a turnover of almost DM200m per year (DM22m of that in inter-company business).

He has a nose for gaps in the market. His business life has been guided by the saying: "If we are good to the customers, the money just flows in."

Block is also a perfectionist, obsessed with detail, untiring in his efforts to make his business run without a hitch.

When workmen bored through the heating pipes in the anteroom to his office (while I interviewed him), he was not amused.

Eugen Block is 48. He was born in Hurkebrügge, near Oldenburg, and is a businessman through and through.

Looking back he said that as he could not sing, or paint or make speeches he quickly went abroad after he had finished his training in hotel management.

He is a born "go-getter." The first thing he tackled was a steak-house in Hamburg.

He brought back from America the idea of opening a restaurant exclusively for steaks. He now has a chain of 19 restaurants with their own support organisation. The restaurants are supplied to a very considerable extent from firms within the Block organisation itself.

In 1985 he went into the luxury hotel business with the opening of Hamburg's Elysée Hotel. A year ago he founded Hamburg Airlines. He believes that this could become a major undertaking.

The tireless driving force behind everything is the holding company, Eugen Block, a sole proprietorship. This company has under its wing seven operating companies and the hotel. The airline is on its own.

The centre of the whole organisation is the Block House Restaurantbetriebe GmbH, which is made up of 19 units each employing about 30, each restaurant unit set up as a profit centre. They will have a turnover of DM100m this year.

Steaks are supplied by Block House Fleischerei GmbH. Other menu items such as steak sauces, salad dressing, seasonings and deserts are supplied by Block House Menü GmbH.

Block House Warenhandel distributes Block products to the retail trade and has a turnover of DM5.5m.

Block's special pride is the meat organisation, which has a turnover of DM33m, a third of which is achieved from customers outside the Block group.

Four factors have contributed to Eugen Block's success: constant high quality, value for money, first-class service and a friendly atmosphere.

Block has had to put in a lot of industry and attention to detail to apply these basic rules, which in themselves sound a little commonplace.

From the very beginning he was his own interior decorator, cuisinier, personnel manager and publicity man. But self-made-man Block is well aware that he cannot maintain his high gastronomic standards without motivated staff.

He has a co-determination arrangement for his workers within his group and a profit-sharing scheme, set up without any influence from the trades union. His employees have a 20 per cent share in the "wonderful profits," as he put it, from the steak houses, which pay the holding company a rent.

He has no need for advertising to fill his steak houses. He said: "Our advertising is what we put on our customers' plates."

Block is not always entirely satisfied with what he sets out to do. He has experimented so long with a chain of restaurants which are cheaper than the steak houses, offering "Hamburgers" made from minced beef, named firstly "Jim Block" and now "Jim Beef," that he has driven the idea into the ground.

Block proposes to put the wealth of experience he has gained in this sector into a new kind of "eatery," which will be something above the McDonalds fast-food restaurants. Two of these ventures have been opened in Hamburg, more are to follow.

Block's second major coup has not had the teething problems which he has had with "Jim Beef." Although everyone who had been fired with Block's optimism had expected more.

Block fulfilled a dream of his youth with the luxury Elysee Hotel which was *opened in 1985. The 600-bed Hamburg* hotel is booked up 92 per cent of the time and brings in DM40m in turnover, a half of which comes from accommodation and food. It has yielded "very good profits" since 1986.

Block said that everyone should have known that he could not be held back, but still they would have liked to have given him worries.

His chances of success in the first-class hotel business, competing with established hotels, seemed not to be very good. Hamburg's cautious bankers tried to make this clear to him.

Block said that he ought to send to those bankers, who were shy to get into his hotel venture, a copy of the balance sheet.

For two years he looked for a co-investor. Then he met the Hamburg real estate major operator Robert Vogel, who was helpful in polishing up his hotel concept.

Aided by a well-known office of *Hamburg architects, equally fired with* Block's enthusiasm, an "elegant spacious hotel which is not forbidding in appearance" has been created.

Block said that it been possible to bring the hotel lobby to life by offering a variety of attractive things to eat.

An organisation within the group is responsible for the success of the hotel, an organisation that very much bears the imprint of Block himself.

Block, who has now become a very self-confident hotelier, said that no-one will build such a hotel again, a view which probably includes Block himself. There is time to put it to the test.

Block said there was still a lot to be done to achieve the aim of the highest quality in all sectors of the hotel operation. For the moment that prevents him from venturing into new hotel projects, and the fact that he has found another outlet for his time and money.

In April last year Hamburg Airlines GmbH & Co KG was set up with a basic capital for the present of DM15m. Block has a missionary zeal in promot*ing this airline.*

Block said that it was absurd that an economically important city such as Hamburg was virtually cut off from direct contact with major cities abroad.

Block is well aware that he could have set something in motion that could get out of hand. But he believes that with the support of his expanding restaurant business it is meaningful to be able to do something for oneself and for Hamburg.

Success on a plate . . . Eugen Block. (Photo: dpa)

Hamburg Airlines has three turboprop aircraft, which fly in scheduled services from Hamburg to Antwerp, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Gothenburg and London.

So far the airline has been a loss-maker and does not have much more turnover than one Block steak house.

But Block is determined to expand. The airlines' fleet is to be increased by four Boeing planes by 1990. Block believes that 1990 will be a reasonable point in time to increase the airlines' capital and know-how.

It is planned to change the company into an AG, a joint stock company in *which Block's partners will participate.* He promises that it will be something to wonder at eventually.

He also has in mind turning the Eugen Block holding company into a joint

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A simple idea behind a textiles success

Textiles manufacturer Max Richter asked who Daun was when, ten years ago, a young businessman of this named wanted to buy up his ailing company.

No-one in textiles today would ask such a question. Claas E. Daun comes from Rastede, near Oldenburg, and is a tax consultant by profession.

Since 1979 he has built up by purchase an impressive textiles concern without any previous knowledge of the business to speak of.

Daun & Cie AG is registered in Rastede and is the umbrella organisation for the Daun group, which in 1987 recorded distributable profits of DM16.5m (in 1986 profits were DM9.7m).

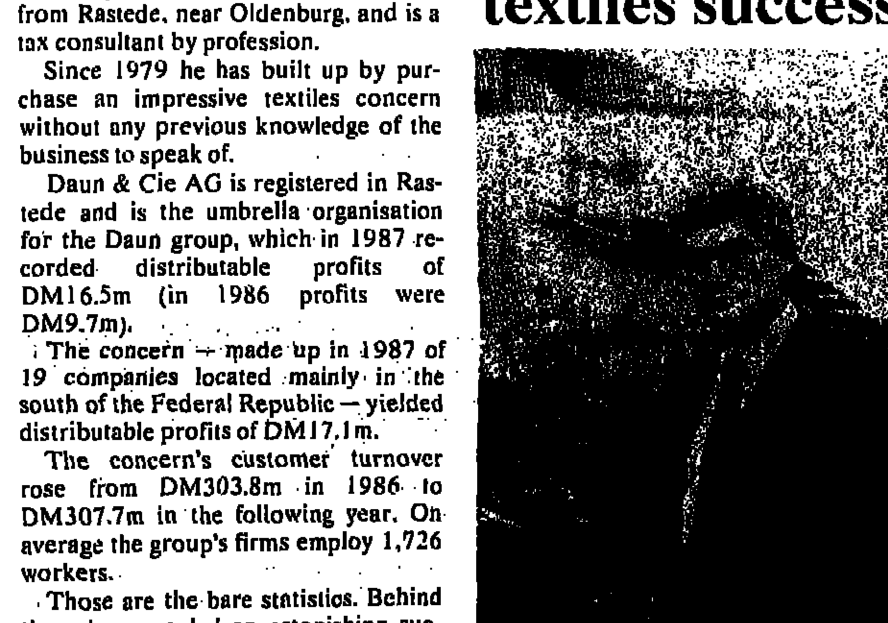
The concern — made up in 1987 of 19 companies located mainly in the south of the Federal Republic — yielded distributable profits of DM17.1m.

The concern's customer turnover rose from DM303.8m in 1986 to DM307.7m in the following year. On average the group's firms employ 1,726 workers.

Those are the bare statistics. Behind them is concealed an astonishing success story.

Daun's concept was comparatively simple. He bought up ailing textiles companies, put them back on their feet, and sometimes, when a good price was offered for a company, or it fitted in poorly with the concern as a whole, he sold it or disposed of his participation in it.

Daun, who is not fond of the limelight, described his methods in a letter to a trade magazine.



Planner and delegator . . . Claas Daun. (Photo: Cromm, Textil-Wirtschaft)

He said that the companies included in his group were for the most part either in difficult or almost hopeless situations when they were taken over. They were restructured and managements were changed, when necessary. They were then launched in a new direction.

He said in his letter that he had no time for managements which did not achieve commercial results and endangered the company's positive advancement — sensibly.

Jokes were made about the man who obviously had too much money, when he bought his first company, a worsted spinning factory in Hesse.

Daun did not see his investment in purely investment terms. He was always involved in the company's business activities. But managers in his organisation work independently.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* described the 46-year-old Daun in this way:

"He regards himself as the planner, who holds all the strands of his organisation in his own hands, based at Rastede, but he makes a point of not meddling in the day to day running of the companies."

Daun is very much in favour of delegated responsibility and flexibility through small units and a wide range of products.

He graphically said that the more horses there were in the race — everyone backed up by himself but brought up into good condition by a trainer — the more chances there were of winning and one could go along with a lame horse under these conditions.

In textiles industry terms that means

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■ AEROSPACE

Bonn makes available cash for hypersonic project



German-American aerospace research scientist Krafft A. Ehricke described flying on board a high-altitude hypersonic airliner at between six and 12 times the speed of sound in glowing terms back in 1981.

"Passengers," he wrote, "will have a pleasant foretaste of space travel. The rocket engines will switch off eight to 15 minutes after take-off, by which time the airliner will have reached an altitude of between 30 and 45km.

"The airliner will now head toward its destination without further propulsion in a no-man's land between Earth and space.

"About 100km before reaching its destination it will slow down to below the speed of sound. The captain will switch on the turbofan engines and land the craft in the conventional manner."

Professor Ehricke envisaged a hypersonic airliner flying from London to Sydney in a mere hour or two. A kind of euphoria about the prospects for hypersonic passenger airliners has prevailed since the early 1980s.

Supersonic airliners such as the Anglo-French Concorde, which flew its first test mission 20 years ago, on 2 March 1969, and has crossed the North Atlantic at twice the speed of sound without mishap since 21 January 1976, were suddenly no longer enough.

Hypersonic airliners were the new buzzword, meaning air travel at over five times the speed of sound.

They were envisaged, as a cross between an aircraft and a rocket, for use in both air and space travel.

In the United States, where the X-15 flew at over six times the speed of sound and altitudes of over 100km 20 years ago, President Reagan gave the go-ahead to develop the X-30.

Two prototypes of what was planned as an approximately 80-ton military aircraft powered by liquid hydrogen were to be built by the mid-1990s and to fly at 25 times the speed of sound.

A civil version of the X-30, US sources claimed only two years ago, could then fly, as a latter-day Orient Express, from America to Japan in two hours.

Hypersonic plans were drawn up in Europe too. In Britain, for instance, the Hotol (short for horizontal take-off and landing) was devised to take off and land in the conventional manner but to fly at hypersonic speeds.

The British project engineers felt they had solved an extremely tricky technical problem.

Their engine was to run on atmospheric oxygen in the atmosphere and on liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen at higher altitudes, reverting to oxygen on re-entering the atmosphere.

In the Federal Republic of Germany a concept devised by Professor Eugen Sänger that had laid the groundwork for today's US and Soviet space shuttles was resurrected.

The idea on which the German Sänger spacecraft project was based envisages a two-stage procedure, with a king-sized but largely conventional aircraft taking a smaller craft to an altitude of about 30km.

The smaller craft is then to ignite its rockets and fly on to its destination at hypersonic speeds, while the launcher will return to its take-off airfield.

German Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber has made it clear in Bonn that basic research on this ambitious project is to be continued.

He announced that the Bundestag's finance committee, which had temporarily frozen funds for the Federal government's hypersonic research programme, had now unfrozen them.

The programme, Herr Riesenhuber says, provides for progress in stages, with DM220m being earmarked for hypersonic research between 1988 and 1992.

The German Aerospace Research Establishment (DFVLR) is to contribute a further DM85m, industry between DM25m and DM30m toward the cost of the project.

The aim of development work is to achieve a drastic cut in the cost of space transport, given that sending one kilogram of payload into space now costs no less than $8,000.

Sänger, says Herr Riesenhuber, could cut this cost to between $1,000 and $2,000.

A further objective was to improve safety standards in manned space travel. Both horizontal take-off and the five to six engines of Sänger's first stage would improve operational safety to such an extent as to come close to present safety standards in civil aviation.



Cutting costs. The Sänger project aims at sharply cutting cost of space transport. (Photo: dpa)

Last but not least, there would be less space garbage of the kind that threatens to become an increasing danger to space vehicles.

Nasa, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, already expects a piece of space garbage more than 10cm in diameter to score a direct hit on a space station once every ... years on average, Herr Riesenhuber said.

As the debris travels at roughly eight kilometres per second, or 10 times faster than a bullet, damage to the space station is sure to be substantial.

That, he said, was why a project such as Sänger must be given preference. Unlike "non-returnable" rockets, running the Sänger rocket would not increase the amount of space debris circling the Earth.

There were, however, no plans to embark singlehandedly on a project of this size. Going it alone was ruled out on cost grounds.

Once the development programme has been completed in 1993 a decision will need to be reached on whether Esa, the European Space Agency, is to persevere with hypersonic research or further development is ruled out on financial, technical or commercial grounds.

Herr Riesenhuber pointed out that America and the Federal Republic were by no means the only countries in the hypersonic running. France too is considering hypersonic projects based on its experience with Concorde, which flies at twice the speed of sound.

British industry is also interested in hypersonic technology even though the Hotol project is no longer government-financed, being backed solely by industry.

Similar studies have been commissioned in Japan, where the Ministry of Industry has earmarked $2m in the 1989 financial year toward the cost of initial hypersonic research.

This is merely the first step in a $520m research programme for which the concept has already been drawn up.

From 2010, Japanese experts forecast, world demand for hypersonic passenger airliners will amount to between 500 and 1,000 units.

Anatol Johansen

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 February 1989)

Continued from page 7

stock company. Block will make this change when the airline has got over its teething troubles and management in all departments has been strengthened. Block himself will move to the supervisory board.

He said that the basic capital would be increased 100 per cent. His desire to remain independent hampers him from going to the stock exchange. Only the banks want a swift stock exchange flotation, Block said, because they earn the most in that way.

Jan Brech

(Die Welt, Bonn, 28 February 1989)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

The serious matter of laughing and other protective trace gases

Trace gases may only be found in minute quantities in the atmosphere, but they save us from a climate worse than death.

Were they not there to shield us from cosmic radiation, for one, the surface of the Earth would resemble the bleak and desolate wastes of neighbouring Mars.

Some of them have an effect similar to that of the plate glass of a greenhouse (which led to the term "greenhouse effect").

Due to their protective shield the Earth's mean surface temperature is +15° C. Were they not there this temperature would be -18° C.

Yet this protective umbrella gives cause for alarm now the concentration of trace gases in the upper atmosphere is on the increase due to human influence — and the mean temperature is on the increase too.

It has happened before. Since the end of the Pleistocene period between 10,000 and 14,000 years ago the mean surface temperature has increased by between three and five degrees centigrade, albeit over a period of several thousand years.

The threat this poses to the Earth's atmosphere has triggered both scientific and political concern. It was an issue discussed by European Community Environment Ministers at their last meeting, for instance.

There is more to it than the hole that CFC gas is said to have punched into the ozonosphere.

Scientists are discovering a growing number of gaps in our knowledge about and ability to account for what is going on in the atmosphere.

Several were discussed at the 57th Dahlem Conference in Berlin, which dealt with the Exchange of Trace Gases between the Biosphere and the Atmosphere.

A lack of reliable findings, a shortage of theoretical explanations and a departure from foolhardy global estimates are the keynotes of interdisciplinary trace gas research.

"The variety of processes is enormous and we are far from understanding them at all well," one atmospheric research scientist frankly admitted.

A fellow-scientist specialising in biology agreed that theory was in dire straits, saying: "We really are in a very bad way."

It has long been clear, given the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, that the atmosphere is a kind of by-product of the biosphere, or life on Earth.

It has only recently been realised that a number of other trace gases associated with the "greenhouse effect" are inter-linked with the biosphere.

They include methane (CH_4), ozone (O_3), laughing gas (N_2O), nitric oxides (NO_x), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halogens.

The overall trace gas count is on the increase, 50-odd atmospheric chemists, microbiologists and meteorologists from all over the world soon agreed in Berlin.

Where and how were the problems (or where the problems started). Laughing gas (N_2O), for instance, sends between three and four million tonnes of nitrogen a year skywards.

"At present," said Professor Andi Andreae of the biogeochemistry department at the Max Planck Chemistry Institute in



Mainz, "we can only guess at what accounts for the increasing amount of laughing gas in the atmosphere. We simply don't know where it comes from."

Vaguely, based on longitudinal measurements, the assumption is that most of this N_2O must originate from tropical soil.

Previous assumptions, such as that it was a result of agricultural fertiliser use and of setting fire to tropical rain forests prior to alternative modes of cultivation, have been shown to be in need of revision.

"Methodical errors in N_2O measurement," Professor Andreae said, "have been shown probably to have led to these sources being greatly overestimated."

Laughing gas is leaked, as it were, into the soil when ammonia is oxidised and nitrates are broken down.

Yet in this, as in other contexts, research scientists prefer to be more diffident about previous fundamental assumptions, especially since the way in which N_2O production by termites was extrapolated has become more generally known.

"Experiments were undertaken in which the output of a single termite was measured," one research scientist in Berlin explained.

"They then estimated how many termites there were in the world and the rest was simple multiplication — and not too good."

Assumptions with regard to methane emission by Asian paddy fields have similarly proved to be based on feet of clay, as it were.

They were based on measurements taken from flower-pots full of soil from paddy fields in Japan 25 years ago.

"That is fine as long as you know for sure that the contents of the flower-pot are representative of soil processes," said a methane specialist. "But we don't."

The problem trace gas research scientists face is that of extrapolating global estimates and atmospheric models from individual measurements.

Methane, the atmospheric concentration of which is increasing by one per cent a year, was discussed as intensively as laughing gas and nitric oxides in Berlin.

Scientists feel surer in methane's case than in that of other greenhouse effect gases that there is a mushroom effect.

Two main factors account for the methane spiral. One is that the higher temperature in our global greenhouse is thawing permafrost soil in the sub-polar tundra, releasing trace gases.

At the same time OH radicals are trapped by methane molecules in the atmosphere, with the result that atmospheric reactions are progressively slowing down.

Yet events may take a different turn. *Trace gas research scientists cannot rule out the possibility of the methane increasing grinding to a halt at some stage or other.*

It might be when the number of head of cattle (whose stomachs are said to be a relevant source of methane) has passed its peak, or other climatic reaction processes take effect.

Konstanz University biologist Professor Ralf Conrad told the conference there were also signs that soil might function as a methane depression, perhaps not to any great extent, but to some extent nonetheless.

"As always, however," Professor Conrad said, "we don't have enough data."

Unexpected developments were reported in respect of nitric oxides, which have been the subject of frequent research in recent years as scientists have been commissioned to investigate smog.

Static (power station smokestack) and vehicle NO_x emission, via nitro-hydrochloric acid a major cause of acid rain, has been found not just to rise skyward from the surface of the Earth.

From a certain concentration on it heads back to the surface of the Earth, but not as NO_x molecules, which readily react with other elements.

"Their chemical reaction time is roughly the same as the time it takes the weather to transport them," an atmospheric chemist said.

The reason why this effect has only just been discovered is that concentrations vary in space and time. Besides, experimental measurements in the first 10 metres above ground-level are extremely difficult on account of frequent turbulence.

Our fundamental knowledge in the field of micrometeorology, as scientists shamefacedly admitted at the Dahlem conference, dates back to 1930s experiments on the spread of poison gas.

Manfred Ronzheimer

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 3 March 1989)

New method of cleaning up oil combustion

Tübingen University chemists have spent nearly 10 years in "absolutely virgin technological territory" devising a new procedure by which to extract sulphur from petroleum.

Crude oil contains anything up to six per cent sulphur, which is released into the atmosphere as sulphur dioxide after the oil has been burnt.

In the atmosphere it combines with water to become sulphuric acid, which as acid rain wreaks havoc on buildings and vegetation.

Desulphurising equipment is only available for large-scale sources of static emission, such as industrial and power station smokestacks.

Sulphur is emitted unfiltered into the atmosphere from central heating burners and coal fires.

Professor Harald Suhr and his associates at Tübingen University organic chemistry department have devised a desulphurising process mainly intended for use by small-scale sources of sulphur emission.

In their case conventional equipment designed for large-scale plant would neither be practicable nor merit the expense.

Professor Suhr's technique is based on desulphurising crude oil, as at an oil refinery.

Petroleum desulphurising processes already exist, but they all have serious drawbacks.

The petroleum has to be evaporated, at a high cost in fuel and power terms, so that it can be desulphurised by catalysts.

These catalysts tend to be put out of action by heavy metals such as nickel or vanadium, traces of which are frequently found in crude oil. Besides, by no means all petroleum components can be desulphurised by means of existing processes.

Professor Suhr relies on excited oxygen to oxidise the sulphur compounds that occur in liquid petroleum, subjecting oxygen gas to an electric discharge.

The discharge energy stimulates the electrons of the oxygen molecules, resulting in a special kind of oxygen.

The sulphurous petroleum is at the bottom of what, as yet, is a research laboratory container.

It is either mixed vigorously or sprayed through nozzles to ensure the maximum possible oxygen exposure.

The excited oxygen molecules react with the sulphur compounds in the crude oil, oxidising them. Oxidised sulphur compounds are insoluble and can be filtered.

The result is two liquids: the desulphurised petroleum and a smaller quantity of crude oil with a high sulphur count.

Using the Suhr process crude oil with a five-per-cent sulphur count can be split into a larger quantity with a sulphur count of 0.5 per cent and a smaller quantity with a sulphur count of 20 per cent.

Low-sulphur petroleum can be used by small-scale consumers as diesel oil, petrol or heating oil. The sulphur-enriched petroleum can only be used by large-scale consumers with suitable smokestack desulphurising plant.

The crucial advantages of the new process are its low energy consumption, the easy way in which the oxidised sulphur compounds can be filtered and the fact that it can be used for crude oil of all kinds.

The research project has been successfully completed, but converting it into an industrial technique will involve hard work that still lies ahead.

"We work with grams in the laboratory. For the process to work on an industrial scale we would need to increase the quantities handled 1,000,000-fold.

"That won't be done in one stage; it will take three or four. And fresh problems are likely to arise at each stage," says Professor Suhr.

Since developing the process on an industrial scale is beyond the scope of a university department he is now keen to enlist the support of the petrochemical industry. Its interest will largely depend on how economic the process is.

Professor Suhr and petroleum experts have costed the process. His cautious assessment of the position is that: "We are definitely not entirely out of the running."

For the time being, however, refiners will not be as keen as mustard to develop his technique. Oil prices are low, oil is readily available, and they can afford to buy low-sulphur grades.

But, as he says: "Oil prices are sure to increase again, and desulphurising techniques will be urgently needed. "What is more, neither research nor industry can simply pull such complex processes straight out of a hat."

Rolf A. Zell

(Die Welt, Bonn, 2 March 1989)

■ **TELEVISION/FILMS**

The life and death of Hemingway, if not that much to do with his writing

RHEINISCHE POST

Director Bernhard Sinkel admits that from the beginning he stood a little in awe of his hero, the American writer and Nobel Prize-winner Ernest Hemingway.

Sinkel said that since the student protest of 1968 he has found the macho-type rather unpleasant.

Nevertheless he has made a four-part television series about Hemingway, the quintessence of manliness.

Sinkel said: "I stood in front of the monument to Hemingway in Pamplona and thought: if he were alive today he would treat me with total contempt."

But there's no going back. Eventually a unique project appeared on the horizon: the first European TV production with American participation.

Never before has American money been put into a project which was not entirely in American hands.

But that was not all. A German director was entrusted with the TV series on Hemingway's life, which in fact is the first film to have been made about Hemingway.

Trouble started long before shooting began. Sinkel shot the six-and-a-half-hour film in five months, on nine locations, with five different teams, an international cast and financing from six sources.

Germany's Second television Channel provided DM4.5 million, the French TF 1 chipped in 20 million francs and further funds were provided by Italy's RAI, Britain's Channel Four and Austria's ORF.

Half of the DM35 million production costs came from American banks, and they brought a lot of pressure to bear.

The American filming team also made their presence felt. They wanted Sinkel to gear the visual aspects of the film to American audiences. They expected scenes to be short, plenty of "action" and close-ups of the main actors.

American actor Stacy Keach, who plays Hemingway, also had his say. He was afraid that his popularity in America would suffer and wanted to present only the more pleasant aspects of Hemingway's character. He was also very high-handed in altering his own lines.

Camera work and film script remained as planned. But Sinkel only authorised the German version. American TV companies shortened it by 250 minutes.

The reactions in America to the film were extraordinary. The press said it was a "very European film" and gave considerable praise to cameraman Wolfgang Treu. The viewing figures were impressive.

The series has now been shown on West Germany's Second Television Channel in four parts, each part 100 minutes in length.

Sinkel told the press in Hamburg that he was happy about the film. It was a German film, he said, conceived in the Federal Republic but shot in English, "a transatlantic film as Hemingway himself was a transatlantic writer."

The series had merits and failures. The script missed out some famous Hemingway locations and some of the people who played an important role in his life.

Gregory, Hemingway's third son, is mentioned but he never appears on screen. He is suing the production company.

The film team was never given permission to film in the Hemingway Bar in the Ritz in Paris. Venice, an important city for Hemingway, the tireless traveller, was too expensive.

The Cubans dawdled so long granting permission to film in the Hemingway home in Havana that it came too late. Because time was pressing a copy of the house was built in Puerto Rico.

Sinkel's film is based on reports by eyewitnesses and relatives, Hemingway's letters, the Hemingway biography by Carlos Baker, and Hemingway's own books.

Sinkel had not read them since his schooldays; now he can see how closely Hemingway's life and his books are related to one another.

Nevertheless his script does not follow Hemingway's career as a writer, but rather the four Hemingway marriages.

The script was triggered off by a comment made by American writer John dos Passos. He said that Hemingway needed a new woman for every new book.

But this form is too restrictive. Not everything in the writer's life, hunting, deep-sea fishing, war correspondent and bull-fighting aficionado, fits under the chapter headings of his marriages. There is a lot missing, including Scott Fitzgerald and James Joyce.

Bernhard Sinkel has a dual attitude towards Hemingway, which can be noted in the film.

Sinkel said: "I never forgot that he was a writer. I could not show the sentence which he was writing. I could only show where it originated from."

These origins are impressive scenes in the film: in the Spanish Civil War, in the Paris circle of Gertrude Stein, when Hemingway is talking sadly to himself with his cat.

Throughout the film we see Stacy Keach, who as he aged came to look more and more like Hemingway himself, sitting at his desk, at the beginning writing fast and with resolution, later hesitantly.

Sharpening his pencils is only a trifling matter at first, later it becomes a ritual. Around the writer's feet lie piles of crumpled up sheets of paper: concentration and creativity have disappeared.

Sinkel was much more interested in Hemingway the admirer of all things manly, a legend which he created himself and which eventually brought about his downfall.

Keach brought this into the part too late. Sinkel should have been firmer in his direction. The external characteristics were right, but the exhibitionism was not there.

Sinkel's direction includes a lot of location shots: in Africa there is some flashy big game hunting; deep-sea fishing in the Caribbean becomes a monstrous effort for survival: in the streets of Pamplona bull-fighting is honoured as it was in "Death in the Afternoon;" in war games in France Hemingway is applauded and decorated.

All this is presented in the film gorgeously and colourfully, only Keach hesitates to fill out the huge character he plays.

His Hemingway develops thanks to male playthings: large-bore rifles, splendid fishing and batteries of whiskey glasses, uniforms, black bulls, and lovely women, of course.

Sumptuous sequences of this sort achieve what Keach fails to create: the "he-man," the devil of a fellow, the thoroughbred character. The overwhelming scenes underline how all this is lacking in Keach's performance.

The first two parts of the series are a mosaic of individual events: the episodic treatment is irritating.

The course of the action is simple: each episode is devoted to one of his wives. In the course of the episode the successor to the wife of the moment appears.

Throughout all four parts Sir Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" provide the background music.

At the end of each episode the colours in the frame fade, the sound ebbs away, producing an elegaic conclusion



Before the bang. Stacy Keach as Hemingway. *(Photo: ZDF)*

to each episode. he actresses playing Hemingway's wives are pleasant, excellently cast, but most of them unknown in the Federal Republic.

Josephine Chaplin (daughter of the famous Charly Chaplin) plays Hadley, who was quite a lot older than Hemingway (the actress does not seem older than Keach). She plays the part awkwardly, shy and with the forbearing smiles of an elder sister.

She is followed by Marisa Berenson as Pauline, a beautiful, rich, extravagant woman, in marked contrast to Hadley.

The years of poverty in Paris and the Engadine are changed to adventures in Africa and being famous people in Key West, where the couple became a tourist attraction.

Hemingway is successful as a writer of the masculine rituals of fishing, hunting, drinking and travelling. Social problems leave him cold.

This all changes with his third wife Martha (Lisa Barnes), a young journalist, who is critical, ironic and ambitious.

Pauline's magic pales beside Martha, whose social and political involvement fascinates Hemingway.

Mary, Martha's successor, played by Pamela Reed, is like Martha, a cool blonde.

Since he is already in Europe, he gets involved in war again, tastes life to the full, challenges death: death, one of Hemingway's major themes.

In Paris one of the few Germans in the cast makes an appearance, Rosel Zech, as a rather unerotic Marlene Dietrich, singing "Lili Marlene."

The war was over — the war scenes were not very well done; they had the smell of papier-mâché and the studio about them — Hemingway went on to enjoy life boistrously.

The last episode describes his decline. Drink, latent melancholy, painful memories of childhood with his harsh mother and diffident doctor father nibble away at the supports of his life.

Keach has some touching moments. The underlying theme of the film is fulfilled: "no-one is really free until he has looked death in the eye."

The lion-hunter, the bull-fighting minstrel, the war correspondent, who "loved fighting even through it can be nasty," goes to a lot of trouble to find his own death.

After a couple of unsuccessful attempts at suicide, Bernhard Sinkel allows his Hemingway to smile when he puts his mouth over the barrel of a rifle early one morning.

Brigitte Söhngen

(Rheinische Post, Düsseldorf, 25 February 1989)

Documentary trend continues with Brecht and Kabul

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

There was a trend to the documentary film already apparent among the film-makers who took part in the forum "New German Films," staged in Berlin last year.

This trend has continued in the productions made during 1988/1989.

Norbert Bunge and Christine Fischer-Defoy have collected together an enormous amount of material for their documentary *My name is Bertolt Brecht – Exile in USA*.

They have created a marvellous collage of Brecht's life in America between the years 1941 and 1947 from interviews, photos, text and film material.

Many details are well-known, but that does not detract from the value of the film in any way.

It includes some unique footage from the première in New York of *Galileo* with Charles Laughton in the title role.

At the sessions of the Committee for Un-American Activites Brecht was very reserved. He wanted to get back to Berlin to work in the theatre there.

Elke Jonigkeit spent many months in Afghanistan, living and talking to women, in Kabul and refugee camps in Pakistan.

Her experiences form the contents of her film *Tschadari & Buz Kaschi* (Veiling and horsemanship). Afghan women today try to find an emancipated role

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■ **EXHIBITIONS**

Where the paths of art and the new technology cross

The arts usually have no place in industrial and computer fairs. They have their own fairs, although admittedly they are penetrated by the sober spirit of commerce.

But here they now are, works of art from the new technological imagination, media-inspired.

They are to be seen at CeBit '89 in Hanover, calm and superior, next to telecommunications and defence technology exhibits, along with office and computer technology, between hard and software.

Their exhibition is called "Artware." Could any other name be more appropriate? They are, among other things, colour-compositions, computer-controlled laser animations, computer-generated, radiographs, scanochromes, CAD (Computer Assisted Design) and much more, which amazes equally technicians and art lovers, and marginally language researchers.

Obviously art today is moving towards technology, not "towards bread" (as the means of a livelihood) as it did in Gotthold Lessing's time.

The critics are already up in arms. They are asking if these colour compositions are art or kitsch?

But this is art and technology, art and the new media, the transference from one to the other is irreversible. The range of technological-artistic forms of expression is constantly expanding.

The new technology's deviation towards art and vice versa is not new. There is a long tradition for this.

Former pugnacious sisters, such as photography and painting, television and videos, have now become peaceable elderly ladies, who get enthusiastic when remembering the good old days, for example remembering Marshall McLuhan, who in the 1960s was prophesying that "quite other media" would determine our perceptions and our thinking.

At the time his central thesis was that the medium itself was the message. This was radical for the time, but it has proven itself true for a half of the new art which is computer-produced.

The other half possibly corroborates a less joyful thesis of the 1980s. Media expert Neil Postman put his finger on it when he said: "We are amusing ourselves to death."

In this theoretical sense the Artware exhibition is a positive and relevant dialogue between the two theses, between praise and criticism of the new technology and its significance for our consumer society.

In reality the exhibits present themselves like a conceptual oasis in the middle of a bustling fair, concerned mainly with commercial interests.

Their theme is among other things the popularisation of the new technology, media and methods through their use in art.

For this purpose the new "Doors of Perception," as William Blake (1757-1827) called them, have been opened.

It is strategically meaningful that the computer dimension of aesthetics, displayed in Artware, has been tried out by young artists, many of them female artists it should be noted.

The exhibition shows that they are not trying to go back to tried and tested compositions by means of the new technology and media.

Identification with our times, done by a younger generation of artists, who are the first generation to grow up in a media world, cannot end up as something simulated. Art and ideas are intended to reveal the new. The exhibition Artware has been put on with the support of Deutsche Messe AG and Siemens. The budget is DM500,000. Primarily one must see it as a statement on art which can be continued on and on. The exhibition, the 4th, shows to people interested, and to those who are not so interested, rather people who see the works by chance, the latest artworks from the computer within the context of the Hanover Fair. The exhibition now has its own place in the fair, an area of about 2,000 square metres in extent.

Artware is a haven of peace in the turmoil and pushing and shoving of the crowds at the fair, with its bright light and with its emphasis on the value and utility of goods.

This is an opportunity for art. It uses all the technology and so on in a gentler and more sensible way, technology which most of the visitors try to buy or sell frantically.

Artware artists are young, international and mostly not very well-known.

David Galloway, the spirit behind the project, said: "We are a kind of clearing house." He was alluding to Jenny Holzer, who has now become internationally well-known, and who was the first to exhibit artware in Germany.

The list of the artists, and the quality of the exhibits displayed, most of them artworks composed for this eight-day exhibition, reduce this clearing house theory to a workable denominator.

There are 17 artists from all over the world exhibiting, 11 of them are under 40. There include artists from the East Bloc.

Their works range from electrography to interactive sonic sulpture to performance (dance and computer-control). Most of them are dominated by the urge to experiment.



What's my line?



Photography per computer.

(Photos: Catalogue)

Lizanne Marrill and Soli Pieree, both from America, concentrate on stylish recycling, for instance. They photograph old, thrown-out display dummies and change them to images of isolated, lonely beings, which become normal human figures to a considerable extent and in an amazing manner through specially prepared software.

Barbara Nessim, also from America, works with CAD, precise and fast. Her pictures of people and masks create a vital language and they have gestures in some way punk-like.

Robert Martin is a computer painter, Paul Earls works with computer-controlled laser imitations.

The computer as an artist's tool, as part of the artist's equipment, has begun its victorious way into art's future. It remains to be seen if programming art leads to new heights or depths in the history of art.

The computer will certainly not replace fantasy and inspiration, at the most it will be put to use. The experiment is under way.

Artware leads art purposefully back into a contempory landscape with relevant technology and with the facts of presentation for today's consumer society.

Norbert Messler

(Die Welt, Bonn, 3 March 1989)

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between seclusion and male power. *American Beauty Ltd* by Dieter Marcello presents reflections on hope and disillusionment.

Marcello, who wrote the script and directed, sophisticatedly joins together the biography of a couple with documentary material from the automobile metropolis Detroit.

The dynamic moments in the film are drawn from contemporary documentation of a workers' strike in the 1930s, the battle for union recognition by the bosses.

In her film *Hare to ke — the special and the mundane,* Regina Ulwer describes the work and life-style of the Ogawa production unit, which has been in existence for 25 years and whose members are like a large family.

Lone-wolf Ogawa's meticulous preparations for a film were most unusual. If a project was in the planning stage the crew set itself up for ages beforehand at the place where the shooting was to take place.

Rüdiger Neumann's *Nordlicht* is an absolute outsider. It is a tranquil, wordless meditative film. Patiently the camera eavesdrops on nature in the changes of the seasons, collecting impressions.

The film teaches what we have unlearned in our hectic lives, namely seeing and perceiving.

Dirk Schäfer, script-writer and director, reached to the stars for the title of his film. *Die weissen Zwerge,* (The white dwarfs), we are told, are small, weak, shining stars, which go their way and are extinguished at some time.

This is like the banal life of Ramono, the cashier, and Friedrich, the cook. Their relationship functions externally, but in truth it has crumbled.

This is a cool psychological study of togetherness, experienced as if the people were behind glass.

In Thorsten Näter's *Sturzflug* Willi and Kurt are dockers, both married, dreaming of Thailand. One day they get there, without their wives of course. They imagine their husbands are at Bad Bramstedt taking a cure.

Thorsten Näter's film is a biting study of men, their self-pity and their showing off.

Thomas Frickel trains the camera on two First World War veterans in his *Schlachtenbummel* (Battlefield tour). They fought against France and delight in nostaligia trips.

The hotelier at Verdun advertises for more guests, for the battlefields are still preserved.

Frickel documents and denounces the marketing of the war in his film.

People are again talking in jingoistic terms. Frickel, who wrote the script and directed, is to be commended for his involvement, but a two-and-a-half-hour film is going a bit too far,

Ingeborg Keller

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 26 February 1989)

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that he produces knitting-wool as well as bath mats, blankets and carpets. He owns a spinning mill, a weaving factory and real estate.

His group comes 14th in the list of German textiles companies: in the European Community he is 40th, in the world 93rd.

No-one knows where the capital came from with which Daun has built up his group.

He used to answering questions by saying that his group has expanded over the years, there is no foreign capital involved and he is not in the red.

What is known is that Daun, regarded by trades unionists as a hard, but fair bargainer, does not gut his companies to make a quick deutschemark.

He is a businessman and his clear aims are "geared to capital and profit."

This was obvious in the latest company which he has added to his group, the Kammgarnspinerei Wilhelmshaven.

The management has been kept on, but not the workforce: in view of shrinking demand about 100 have been dissed.

Eckart Glenke

(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 4 March 1989)

■ MEDICINE

Positive attitudes towards life shown to influence process of aging



When you're no longer able to cope with a situation a German colloquialism says you are "looking old," meaning you've failed or stand no chance of solving a problem.

Age is thus equated with declining ability and a growing inability to cope — a decline we will all face sooner or later.

Research scientists such as the Nuremberg psychologist Wolf Oswald, who specialises in research into age and the aged, disagree.

They have studied human behaviour and experience in old age and arrived at entirely different conclusions. The physical and mental age we reach depend to a crucial extent, they say, on us and our surroundings.

Wolf Oswald and an Erlangen psychologist, Erhard Olbrich, are in charge of research into the psychology of aging at Erlangen-Nuremberg University.

Findings of a survey carried out in a Nuremberg old people's home show how large a part subjective experience plays in aging, Professor Oswald says.

The survey consisted of asking 145 residents at the home how they felt about old age, and more specifically their own age. A check three years later revealed what percentage of the old people questioned had since died.

The research scientists then evaluated the questionnaires to find out who the survivors might reasonably be expected to be. In 92 per cent of cases the computer evaluation was right. "We naturally can't conclude from a questionnaire who will be alive in three years' time and who won't," Professor Oswald says, but one point is clear:

It may reasonably be inferred that anyone who has a negative attitude toward his or her age, sees no future for him- or herself and is passive in outlook will age faster and stand a much poorer chance of survival.

This is true more or less regardless whether the person is ill or not; the inner approach is what counts.

Geronto-psychologists conclude from such findings that there are no generally valid standards where old age is concerned, merely strictly individual forms of aging.

Aging as a biological fact of life has an incredibly wide scope. "Age-related changes in behaviour are not inevitable until you reach 80 or 85," Professor Oswald says.

Until we reach this ripe old age, however, aging is mainly a matter of our personal outlook on life and our social imprint.

Instead of referring to aging in terms of destiny, geronto-psychologists see it as a process we must make a success of and toward which we must play an active part.

The reason for this wide-ranging leeway until old age is the "plasticity" of human behaviour. We don't need our full intellectual potential to cope with life, for one.

"It's like a 125-hp car," Professor Oswald says. "When it is older and can only manage 90 hp no-one worries much in everyday motoring; in ordinary traffic you can still drive fast enough."

Another point is that losses in performance and capacity can in fact be offset. The speed at which the mind processes information declines from the age of 30.

Yet this slowdown is offset by the use of sectors of intelligence that are heavily dependent on practice. They function best later in life.

Surveys have shown that people don't peak in overall intelligence until they are between 40 and 50. So it is wrong to say, geronto-psychologists argue, that everything gets worse as we grow older.

People who stay active, submitting and responding to the stimuli of their surroundings, are best able to keep their minds busy until a ripe old age. They may even boost their performance.

Professor Oswald says, however, tests have shown that too much activity can be as detrimental to performance as too little. So the aim must be "to be active, but to be aware of your limitations and to keep to within them." Making a success of old age is not entirely up to the individual. The influence of one's surroundings is crucial. The second example Professor Oswald cites is the findings of a survey conducted by colleagues in which residents of an old people's home were split into two groups.

The one continued to be cared for and largely kept institutionalised. The other was told to do reach its own decisions and act on them.

After 18 months the nursing staff felt members of the second group were much the more active, while doctors found them to be far superior in terms of well-being.

During the period nearly 30 per cent of the institutionalised residents died against a mere 15 per cent of the others.

This interface between aging people and their surroundings shows, geronto-psychologists say, how relative the concept of old age is.

"The decision on whether someone is able to look after himself is not one I can reach solely on the basis of his or her personal competence. A crucial factor is what level of performance society expects."

Professor Oswald feels many old people are institutionalised merely because society no longer gears its requirements to the abilities of older people.

Feeling useless and unable to remedy the situation, old people who are cast aside sink into a vicious circle of decline.

Yet they might have much to offer. Their special ability is said not to be that of merely functioning in a performance-oriented society. Their forte is the personal sector.

Which means that old people are capable of establishing a much deeper, richer and more humane relationship with other people than the young — if only they are given the chance.

Robert Gegner

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 24 February 1989)

Facts about tracts: snorers silenced by vacuum cleaner

Snoring is the bane of millions of lives — those of the wives (or husbands) who are kept awake by it night after night.

Promising research into the phenomenon is under way at the "sleep laboratory" of the Westphalian health insurance scheme's clinic on the North Sea holiday island of Norderney.

Patients here sleep to the unmistakable accompaniment of their symptomatic snoring. Doctors check whether it is harmless or a sign of respiratory and circulatory upsets accompanied by exhausting bouts of apnoea, or cessation of breathing, and waking up.

"Patients are normally referred to us with chronic respiratory complaints such as asthma or bronchitis," says head surgeon Jürgen Fischer.

"Tests in the sleep laboratory show 25 out of 500 patients to suffer from snoring as a pathological condition.

"This," Dr Fischer says, "is defined as suffering from cessation of breathing for over 100 times a night for periods of between 10 seconds and two minutes."

That they start breathing again at the last minute, so to speak, is due to an alarm sounded by the brain, which wakes the patient up.

He starts breathing again, snoring loudly, goes back to sleep — and the entire procedure is repeated.

"When someone is woken up several hundred times a night 365 nights a year it is bound to have an effect on his daytime performance," Dr Fischer says. One of the most obvious symptoms is a tendency to fall asleep during the day.



All this and a good night's sleep as well. (Photo: AP)

The sleep laboratory is a small, brightly lit hospital room with a bed and bedside table. At the head of the bed there is a shoe box-sized container from which electrode wires hang. A camera is perched on top of the box.

At night readings are taken via a multitrack tape recorder and analysed the following morning.

The eye movements registered shed light on the depth and stage of the patient's sleep. Muscular activity in the

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■ ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Controversy surrounded last days of man who talked with the grey geese

DIE WELT

Konrad Lorenz, one of the founders of ethology, the scientific study of comparative animal behaviour, has died at his Austrian home aged 85.

He was awarded the 1973 Nobel Prize for medicine and physiology, wrote numerous books and was well known far beyond his biological research for championing nature conservation.

He was showered with honours and tokens of esteem on his 85th birthday last November, but critical notes were also sounded.

He made his name with the decades he spent investing the behaviour of grey geese. One of his students once called him "the greatest living biologist of our day." The ecological movement revered him as its most celebrated supporter.

He was born on 7 November 1903 in Vienna. His father, Adolf Lorenz, the founder of orthopaedics, already owned the family estate in Altenberg on the Danube.

At his father's request Lorenz first studied medicine in New York and Vienna, then zoology, palaeontology and human psychology.

At Vienna University he taught comparative anatomy and animal psychology. In 1940 he was appointed professor of comparative psychology in Königsberg.

During the war he published an article in which he called for "an even stricter elimination of the ethically inferior."

Many years later, when this article was retrieved from the archives and he was confronted with it, he expressed regret at having used such terminology.

In a televised interview he said, however, that although he had used Nazi terminology he had advocated an ideology that was the exact opposite of what the Nazis favoured.

Yet he retained a blemish, the stigma of being a dyed-in-the-wool advocate of Darwin's survival of the fittest theory in relation to human society.

After the war he resumed his research in Altenberg, later being called to Wilhelmshaven and the Max Planck Institute of Marine Biology.

He then transferred to Münster and, finally, to Seewiesen, Bavaria, where he set up the Max Planck Institute of Ethology and worked until his retirement.

He then returned to Altenberg, where it had all begun, and set up a research unit where he and his many students continued to study the behaviour of grey geese.

In his later years he also studied the behaviour of fish.

When he was 29 he watched a grey goose chick emerging from the egg. To his surprise the chick took him to be its mother and followed him wherever he went.

He soon realised that he had come across a fundamental phenomenon in the animal world. He called this irreversible learning process the "imprint." It can only be made at a certain, sensitive stage of life.

Konrad Lorenz was one of the founders of comparative ethology. He dealt in equal measure with the behaviour of animals and humans, investigating hereditary behaviour and the interface between hereditary and learnt behaviour patterns.

He made his mark not only on behavioural research but on biology as a whole.

Lorenz forecast at an early age that the "life sciences" would come to assume substantial importance in the second half of the 20th century.

In 1973 he, Karl von Frisch and Nikolaas Tinbergen shared the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine.

In his experiments with animals Lorenz derived particular benefit from his ability to instinctively grasp important laws of nature.

Observation was always the crucial starting point of scientific research as he saw it. This was particularly apparent in his book *Hier bin ich — wo bist Du?* (Here Am I — Where Are You?).

It was published to mark his 85th birthday and summarised yet again his decades of experience of the social behaviour of grey geese.

He began to write books at an early age and earned a reputation far beyond his scientific field as a writer.

He had the gift of describing complicated scientific phenomena in a most entertaining and informative manner. He played a leading part in outlining the findings of modern zoology to a wider public.

But his scientific work went much further than biology. In the early 1940s an essay of his laid the groundwork for the so-called evolutionary theory of cognition.

In it he sought to reconcile philosophy and biology. Why, he asked with reference to Kant's categories, are there inexplicable and immutable a prioris of human knowledge such as there being only three spatial dimensions?

Lorenz attributed them to mankind's tribal origins and to the evolution of human reason from irrational antecedents.

He was thus one of the first thinkers to try and forge a link between the theory of cognition and modern biology.

Man, he said, was a hybrid in terms of his biological antecedents, with all their limitations and sources of error, and of his cultural evolution.

This approach was later enthusiastically taken up and developed by other biologists. Philosophers, in contrast, usually viewed the evolutionary theory of cognition with scepticism.



Able to simplify the complicated ... Konrad Lorenz. (Photo: dpa)

What was envisaged as a reconciliation turned out to be the source of a dispute that has still not been settled.

In his later years Lorenz dealt increasingly with social issues. His *Die acht Todsünden der zivilisierten Menschheit* (The Eight Deadly Sins of Civilised Mankind) showed how the progress of civilisation leads to new behaviour patterns.

His *Der Abbau des Menschlichen* (The Disintegration of the Human Factor) demonstrates, on the basis of the evolutionary theory of cognition, how what originally were natural and meaningful mainsprings of human activity now gradually no longer make sense and, indeed, are becoming dangerous.

They include growth and procreation, competition, and pleasure in the struggle to achieve lofty objectives.

Lorenz the academic had by this stage long abandoned the ivory tower of basic research and ventured into the field of politics, warning against dangers that threatened our environment and reminding us not to overestimate money and power.

He became a committed environmentalist. In 1970 he was one of a small group of leading personalities who advocated improvements in nature conservation.

In 1985 he was one of the initiators of the referendum, later named after him, to stop the construction of a power station in a nature reserve area of the Danube flood plain.

In March 1985 the referendum was endorsed by 350,000 Austrians. After large-scale demonstrations the project was abandoned shortly afterwards.

Despite his advanced age he repeatedly faced interviewers and wrote essays, having no fear of dropping the proverbial brick.

On his 85th birthday he gave an interview in which he mentioned Aids (amongst many other topics). "In view of overpopulation," he said, "a certain sympathy toward Aids" was conceivable.

This turn of phrase triggered a landslide of outraged objections. He was mainly accused of viewing the world solely through a biologist's eyes.

Critics said he was blindly enthusiastic about natural strategies of survival.

Many people who had welcomed his views on nature conservation and his plea for a more human world a few years previously now turned their backs on him in disgust.

Ludwig Kürten

(Die Welt, Bonn, 1 March 1989)

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chin shows whether breathing recommenced with a snore, while movements of the diaphragm reveal when breathing is ineffective.

Every time breathing ceases oxygen pressure and saturation plummet. "The cause is muscular enervation of the respiratory organs," Dr Fischer says. "When accompanied by overweight and alcohol consumption it can lead to a closure of the upper respiratory tracts."

A diet often does the trick. Where it doesn't, a respiratory device can help the pathological snorer.

The mask that is strapped to his nose at night works like a vacuum cleaner in reverse. When the pressure increases the patient's respiratory tracts are kept open.

The result is amazing. Breathing is suddenly regular and constant, heartbeat regular, oxygen pressure stable. The only drawback is the cost; the device costs about DM5,000.

A 50-year-old Essen van driver is one of the patients who have been treated at the Norderney clinic.

"At first I thought I would never fall asleep with the mask on, but I promptly slept well. I haven't felt so rested for ages," he says.

The clinic isn't the only one of its kind in Germany. There are sleep laboratories at Hanover medical college, Marburg polyclinic and Freiburg University.

The experts are convinced more and more sleep laboratories will be set up in the years to come.

The significance of respiratory complaints of this kind and their links with other complaints are growing increasingly apparent.

Margit Ekholt/AP

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 3 March 1989)

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quately protect them. I feel that the toleration of a dual nationality is the better and more appropriate solution.

For the integration of our foreign fellow citizens it would be better to stem the inflow of unjustified asylum-seekers.

Although I view a limitation of the basis right to asylum as part of an adjustment to the constitutional and legal situation in other European democracies as a legitimate such such a move would not currently obtain a political majority.

One solution would be the often discussed yet unsatisfactorily implemented acceleration of the administrative and judicial procedure.

It is in the interests of the persons concerned that the assessment procedure should not drag on for years.

A longer procedure does not mean that the country concerned has a *stronger rule of law.*

On the contrary, administrative jurisdiction should be based on the principle of speedy processing.

The longer the procedure assessing the justification of the asylum application lasts the more problematic the ban on employment for non-recognised applicants becomes and the more severe the effects of the deportation of the rejected applicant.

A further acceleration of procedure requires decisions and money, but the retention of the current practice represents a burden for the state and makes it more difficult to find dignified solutions to the problems facing the foreigners legally residing in our country.

Manfred Rommel

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 17 February 1989)

■ FRONTIERS

Prizing people loose from fascination with occult

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

It is not easy to overcome the fascination for the occult. Gabriele still shudders at the memory of so many evenings spent in sessions with the supernatural.

It was fascinating to be with friends and ask the moving glass to answer questions about the past and the future — and there was also a certain degree of fear about the answers which allegedly came from the other side.

She is now steeled from the onslaughts of demons and ghosts, and successfully fought her obsession for making contact with the dead.

She was helped by the paraspychological advice centre for matters of the occult in Freiburg. This centre, which has been operating since the beginning of this year, is the only one of its kind in the country.

It is supported by the academic society for the promotion of parapsychology and, what is unprecedented, it is given financial support by the employment office.

There are no plans so far to establish such an office in Cologne. In the youth affairs office there is a specialist dealing in general terms with the current enthusiasm for the occult, but advice in individual cases is not given.

Physicist and psychologist Walter von Lucadou, head of the Freiburg advice centre, said: "The problem has to be dealt with in consultation with various disciplines."

He and his colleagues are not content purely in "understanding the matter." He said: "You cannot leave people alone to cope with the alleged spirit world."

The people who ring up Walter von Lucadou are not talking about figments of their imagination or clairvoyance. He regards his new job as being a "spiritual adviser by telephone." He takes his responsibilities towards people, "who have fallen into another kind of reality," very seriously. The people concerned and their relatives have problems with this phenomenon as do educationalists, psychologists, psychiatrists and church representatives.

They are also involved in it but most of them are helpless when confronted with the current wave of interest in the occult, in which more and more people are getting involved. But they can all now enlist the assistance of the Freiburg experts.

Gabriele eventually did this. She rang up the centre and spoke about her eerie experiences and sufferings during and after the moves of the glass on the table.

She said that the glass really did move without anyone knowingly doing anything.

The truth is that no spirit slipped into the glass. The Freiburg scientists told her: "It moved with normal mechanical energy or muscle power," which came from one of the people taking part in the occult session.

Catholic theologian Andreas Resch is professor for paranormiology and clinical psychology at the Lateran University in Rome and an internationally-recognised expert on peripheral questions concerning science.

He said: "The occult includes everything which is not capable of scientific investigation or proof. It gives hope of a certain kind of freedom of movement in a better world."

The experts in Freiburg see things differently. They maintain that "in 90 per cent of cases occult phenomena can be explained by natural science."

Walter von Lucadou said without equivocation: "There is no supernatural. That's nonsense. Occult practices themselves are not dangerous in any way."

What can be the undoing of the participants is the conclusions they draw from their experiences during the sessions.

What explanations do the parapsychologists in Freiburg have for the coherent sentences which are heard during the sessions?

Walter von Lucadou said that involved "psychic automatism. A part of the conscience separates off, which becomes independent and consciously delegates actions." He said that this was like driving a car.

"Suddenly you are home but you do not know how you got there."

People with this part of their conscience strongly developed are regarded to be good mediums.

It is this separated part of the conscience which writes the answers to questions put in the occult sessions, he said.

If astonishing answers are given this is because the separated intelligence "has more memory than the conscious I."

A family told of a phenomenon, which seemed at first glance incomprehensible but the Freiburg scientists were able to offer an explanation which was in fact easy to understand.

The family was convinced that by spiritual concentration they could make a compass needle, they had in the house, move.

Physicists and psychologists whom the family had consulted previously did not think that this kind of problem was in their purview.

The scientists in Freiburg confirmed that the needle did actually move and after considerable observation they realised that the motive power was of this world.

They said that it was the lift in the building next door with its huge iron counterweights, which moved the needle when the lift moved up or down its shaft.

In many cases the Freiburg scientists have to "go along with something." A teacher recently turned to them who wanted to know something about the glass-moving game, popular among his pupils.

He took part in a session and was astounded. The glass moved, and what was worse, when asked it wrote out his grandmother's name of endearment, which he and he alone knew.

He got an explanation from Freiburg; although not entirely convincing.

His case was part of the ten-per-cent "failure rate," cases which the scientists in Freiburg cannot explain — or as they say, not yet.

This involves telepathy, communication between mind and mind otherwise than through the known channels of the senses.

The scientists have made little headway in this sector so far.

Gitta Deutz-Zaboji

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 2 March 1989)

Scientists try to divine the watery truth

Laymen are not the only ones to have divided views on the merits of divining rods: scientists also disagree among themselves on their value.

Some believe the activites of the diviner are nonsense and superstitious, others believe that there is something in it, and put there confidence in the divining rod.

Scientists in Munich have been trying to throw some light on the matter. Hans-Dieter Betz, a physics professor in Munich, is one of the two heads of an investigation into divining rods.

The findings are to be made public in April, but he had some comments to make in advance: "Our work over the past two years has shown that it is most probable that the results are not accidental."

Professor Betz was circumspect because the project has been criticised considerably.

The Association for Scientific Investigation of Para-science suspects that there are loopholes in the research arrangements.

In an open letter to the Scientific Research Ministry in Bonn the association said that its experiments had been supported by grants worth DM400,000. But, the letter said, reseach projects in the Federal Republic should not be held up to public ridicule, international ridicule in fact.

The Ministry had no intention of this, said a Ministry spokesman. "Otherwise we would have called the projects off."

The experiments involved 11 scientists in disciplines ranging from biochemistry, computer science to radiobiology.

Neither the participants in the experiments, that is the diviners, nor the experimenters themselves knew where, in the tests, the place to be traced was.

According to Professor Betz water pipes were laid in the basement of a barn.

The diviner had to discover its precise location from the storey above.

In another experiment the blindfolded diviner had to find the same spot every time, operating from a catwalk in the open air.

Professor Betz said: "Of course the diviner always began from a different starting point and without being able to orient himself."

The professor came to two conclusions in these tests. He said that in the first place most diviners exaggerated their abilities. "They simply did not find the right spot all that often and not as exactly as they claimed."

He continued: "Some of the participants found the exact spot more frequently, which cannot be explained as accidental entirely."

The Munich research team hopes shortly to have discussions with hydrologists and geologists. They are the most sceptical about the activities of diviners.

The whole project is part of a Scientific Research Ministry investigation into extra-scientific methods in the battle against cancer.

It is said time and time again that certain zones which can only be detected by divining rods have a co-responsibility for the origins of tumours.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 17 February 1989)

Melted butter, vodka, big profits on Polish market day

The man said he came to Berlin from what is now Zielona Gora in Poland. He spoke in faltering German, saying that he had come the 170 kilometres in a bus. Then he got down to brass tacks.

"Do you want any vodka?" he asked, opening up his conspicuously bulging overcoat.

You can buy the Polish national drink for five marks at the impromptu market in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz. In a Berlin discount shop it costs more than ten.

At the weekend 10,000 Poles came to the Potsdamer Platz to offer their wares. Over the past week there has been a dramatic intensification in this trade.

Seven days before there were only 3,000 who wanted to sell their vodka. Now customs controls have gone all to pieces trying to deal with the flood of "tourists."

Officials in Berlin do not know what to do to bring this black market trading to an end.

From early morning Poles stand at the roadside, in parks and at car parking areas offering their wares. Sometimes they spread out a plastic bag on which they display Cracow sausages, ham sausage, cheese and partly-melted butter.

Scarves, underwear, children's dolls and shoes are sold from huge bags.

The "Polish Market" in Berlin has caught on like wildfire, particularly among the Turks who are used to the bazaar idea in selling and buying.

Deals are done in sign language. A pair of cotton socks cost DM1.50, three sausages cost four marks, three tins of sardines or half a pound of butter one deutschemark.

Vodka and cigarettes are not so cheap. Customs officers keep an eye on these items.

Whenever one of the Polish traders begins to whisper it is always about vodka.

On Sunday eight customs officers were present at the crowded market to make spot checks.

In the course of the day they had confiscated 11 litres of vodka, 30,000 cigarettes; 360 grams of caviar and an arctic fox valued at DM1,200.

The customs officers caught a big dealer in the illegal trade. In this car alone they found 42 kilos of butter, 30 kilos of cheese and 30 kilos of meat.

Officially Polish tourists are only allowed to bring into Berlin limited quantities of these items for their own use.

Usually the Poles offer only a small quantities of these sausages, butter, socks and so on. But even with these small items they can earn what is for them a lot of money.

West Berlin is only 80 kilometres

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■ HORIZONS

Little globetrotters don't always learn tolerance



"Mark is our African," sometimes jokes Gisela Sterner about her son. Although Mark, 14, is strikingly blonde, she has good reason for making the observation: he spent six of his formative years in the West African nation of Gambia and speaks Wolof fluently.

His eyes still wander over the streets as if he is searching for animal trails. Outdoors, he walks with head a little lowered so that he can better see the ground.

He proved himself by hunting, together with the Wolof boys, frogs and rodents and eating them by campfire. His mother has discovered that he cannot easily play without a firm objective in mind. Everything he does must have an aim. She observes with a laugh that a little bit of Mark will always remain an African hunter.

And this in spite of the fact that he was born in an old, traditional German town in Lower Saxony, Neustadt am Rübenberge. He now has little chance to use his African hunting experience because he is living in an Egyptian tourist resort, Luxor, where his father, Reinhold Sterner, working for a German development agency, has for a year has been preparing a hotel school which is to be handed over to the Egyptians.

Herr Sterner, a hotel specialist, has been working in foreign countries as a hotel adviser since 1964 — always with his family.

So it is no wonder that Gisela Sterner has inevitably developed an international manner of referring to her children: Mark the African; the oldest son, who was born in Kabul, Afghanistan; and the daughter, born in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A hundred thousand Germans live like the Sterners in foreign countries. They are development workers, Goethe Institute employees, embassy employees and their families, trade and industry representatives, to name some more common examples. The exact number is not known. No one is forced to register at the local German diplomatic post.

But it is the children who are most affected by the stay overseas. It doesn't matter if it is in the African bush, in the thinly populated highlands of the Andes in Latin America or a bustling city in the Third World with ghettos for the rich and slums for the poor. These are the shaping influences on young lives, where outlook and conceptions are moulded, where the idea of what is good and what is bad is influenced.

Mark Sterner has actually grown up in four countries: his first year was spent in Germany and the next four in Tunisia. He was 11 when his parents left Gambia. After spending two years at a German gymnasium, he is now in Egypt, again a foreigner.

But what does this term "foreigner" mean for him? If anything? When he is asked where he liked it best, the answer comes like a pistol shot: at boarding school. But that doesn't mean too much because boarding school means an absence of parental control. That at the moment is a ticklish point. For a long time, the family lived in an apartment in Luxor with one bedroom, a living room, kitchen and bathroom. Now it has the use of a small third room.

When Mark sees his parents, his thoughts inevitably turn to the school. His mother teaches him day out, day in, with correspondence material. And his father keeps the papers locked away at the hotel school so Mark can't get his hands on them in advance.

Luxor is for Mark not an alien place. On the contrary. He has valiantly built his life here, visits and goes out with many Egyptian families and has picked up a fluent knowledge of Arabic.

He has become a bit of a young man about town and, wherever his father goes, Mark has already been. Mark's influence can been seen in the name the people of Luxor have given to his father: "Abu Mark", which means "father of Mark."

The Egyptian hospitality has many many things easier for Mark, but he is still used to standing on his own two feet. He has done that from early childhood.

In Gambia he went through what happens to almost all boys who come in contact with outsider groups — he was given beatings by the locals.

Frau Sterner remembers: "He didn't let that intimidate him. He persevered until he was in the end accepted and went rat-catching with them."

Hans Georg Löber is a psychologist at the Carl Duisberg Centre in Cologne, an institute which is involved internationally in training and further education. He says that living in a foreign country can be a *source of enrichment for children. Löber* himself spent some years of his childhood in Africa.

"In a foreign country, a child gains a different perspective. Its horizons are broadened." Children learn languages easily, are open to new norms and values and can, without working at it, become a little citizen of the world. This was an age of an awareness of other cultures.

Lars Hayer is 13. He was newly born when his parents, who had already been in Tanzania and Morocco, went to Tunisia where his father, agriculture engineer Frank Hayer, went to work on a development-aid project. Lars grew up in North Africa. When the family came back to Germany, he had no problem adapting to life here. Herr Hayer said his son "passed his exams brilliantly."

Now the family is back in Africa, in the Egyptian provincial capital of Marsah Matruh. Here, there is a slight end-of-the-world atmosphere, but that doesn't worry Lars. It is more a problem for his mother.

Father Frank works here on a project aimed at improving the fundamentals of life for the local Bedouins. Women barely figure in public life. So Frau Hayer goes mostly with her son when she goes shopping.

He is a correspondence school pupil and so far has found no friends here to spend his leisure time with, but he gives the impression that he could get to know every corner of this world. His home is wherever he happens to be.

Not for women alone. Lars Hayer, 13, and mother shopping in Marsah Matru, northern Egypt. (Photo: Peter Pauls)

In the case of Jessica Marold, 16, it is not nearly so simple. The central point is Cairo. She attends a German school in which Egyptian children are also taught. She was born in Berlin and lived there for seven years, but her memories of it are now unclear. In 1980, she, her brother and her parents came to Cairo. Her father, Klaus Marold, is chief of finance at a German archaeological institute.

Jessica finds it hard to envisage living in Germany. Not only does she speak fluent Arabic, but the Egyptian way of life has left a strong influence on her. Her mother, Elke, is often a target of criticism. For example she criticised her moth*er for wearing a fairly modest T-shirt* which the daughter said left too much skin showing and was therefore unsuitable for wearing at an Egyptian camel market.

When she visits Germany, Jessica is regularly alarmed at the coolness and distance which people maintain to and between each other.

It is clear that the integration into a native land which has become a foreign land can be a problem after a long spell overseas, especially if that stay was in only one foreign country.

Psychologist Löber mentions the difficulties that can arise when puberty begins. "Now, young people begin to play the role of men and women. Young people consciously develop a self-image aimed at helping them get a partner. Today, he wants to be James Dean, a few days later someone else."

But this was not possible in some foreign countries. Playful partnership behaviour with potential partners was not always possible because there was simply noone there to fulfil the partner role — in the bushland, for example. Another reason was that in some countries, the law of the land prevented this.

Löber: "This can lead to shortcomings. Young people can later on have difficulty relating to a partner simply because they do not get enough training at relating to partners."

So, is there a paradox in this? Does it mean that here we have a young person of the world who can handle alien cultures but who is as subtle as a backwoodsman when it comes to relating to other people or to a partner?

The problem in Cairo is clearly not as great as in a country centre like Marsah Matruh where a brother even must prevent his 35-year-old sister, even if she is an educated woman, from going out at night — as in the case of a woman who works with Herr Hayer.

Sometimes he is afraid that son Lars will suffer because his only companionship consists of adults, and not many at that. But the father comforts himself with the thought that in two years, the job in the desert will come to an end. *After that, Lars will not be able to go* further with correspondence courses.

Sometimes, Reinhold Sterner's conscience is not entirely clear, either. He is worried because Mark has no settled classroom community in Luxor and is able to make no lasting friendships like at boarding school. "There are things that are lacking in his life," says Herr Sterner reflectively. "We often makes trips with him, but obviously that is no substitute for adventures with friends."

On the other hand, Mark has experiences that very few other German children have. And: "Life in Egypt is not as artificial as Germany, where a leisure industry with television and cinema lures the children."

Frau Marold says that *Konsum-Terror* and *Mode-Diktat* are to a large extent unknown in foreign countries. On the contrary: "The (German) children are more spontaneous because every day they are faced with the problem of coming to terms with a strange environment."

It is true that time spent in a foreign country does not necesarily make people tolerant and open. White people often live in ghettos in the Third World and, in these cases, contact with the locals is usually restricted to domestic staff. Löber: "There are people who come home after say, five years in Nigeria, and have only negative views to relate. That attitude naturally transmits itself to the children."

He has established that among people living in foreign lands, there is a greater proportion with racist views.

He says they are those who have not been able to come to terms with adjustment crises in a foreign culture. This also is transmitted to the children."

Peter Pauls

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 4 March 1989)

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from the Polish frontier. It is the next stop on the way to the West.

The economic crisis in Poland has obviously made a large number of Poles into black-marketeers.

The way things are going is quite clear. The black market rate for Western currency is seven times greater than the official rate. If a Pole can sell four bottles of vodka for DM20 in Berlin then he can exchange this illegally for what amounts to almost a month's wages in Poland.

The new black market in Berlin is bound to generate new hostility to foreigners.

Paul Duwe

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 27 February 1989)